World Teacher

– Other World Style Education & Agent –

- Volume 11 -

Freeloader

Author:

NEKO Kouichi

Artist:

Nardack

[Translated by: Bayabusco Translation]

Chapter 64
The Real Feelings of a Child

A few days have passed since our reunion with Noel and Dee.

Since then, we became freeloaders at [Elena's Dining Room] and spent the time leisurely while helping them run the business.

Emilia and Reus were working as waiter and waitress, while Reese and I helped them prepare the meals in the kitchen every day.

And when today's business hours ended, I taught Dee new dish for the first time in a while. Of course, Alad was with me and he was curiously looking at my performance.

"After putting the beaten eggs here, cover it with a lid and it is completed when the egg solidifies." (Sirius)

"I see." (Dee)

"Yeah, it really can be done quickly. I'm learning something." (Alad)

What I was teaching this time were Donburi dishes, which can be the main dishes for a dining room, such as Katsudon and Oyakodon.

The reason I didn't teach this dish that was quick to combine, cheap and delicious was that I wasn't sure about the supply of rice.

Because of that, I made it for personal consumption; but when I heard that the Galgan Company was finally able to secure a stable amount, I taught the dish immediately. The two who were learning this dish, had serious looks as they took some notes.

The two sampled the completed food, and it looks like it wasn't bad at all, judging from their reactions.

"Katsudon is a bit troublesome, but the broth and the ingredients can be prepared in advance, and these ingredients are the same ingredients for stews." (Sirius)

“It seems possible to offer this dish soon.” (Dee)

“It is so delicious with this speed and simplicity. As expected of Dee-san’s master.” (Alad)

“Then, you two should make these products one by one. They will be our dinner for today. Then, let’s have everyone eat them and listen to their opinions.” (Sirus)

“Understood.” (Dee)

I gave the room back to them and they began preparing the cutlets. They would complete the Donburi dishes one after another.

When I was giving some small advice, I felt somebody watching and looked back. Everyone was attracted to the smell and was peeking into the kitchen, with Noel leading the bunch.

“…It smells delicious.” (Noel)

“It’s good to anticipate this, Noel-nee. Those are Aniki’s deadly Donburi dishes. At last, Dee-nii has also learned them.” (Reus)

“The taste will become a habit, Noel-san.” (Reese)

The tension of the three gluttons started to rise, but since they were annoying, they ran away like spiders when they were driven away. You guys look really happy.

Then, the dishes were completed for a number of people after a while, and it soon became a dinner, since Noel and the rest were already preparing the plates and chopsticks. Three pots with Katsudon, Oyakodon, and Gyudon were lined up on the table, and bowls of rice were prepared in front of everybody.

“Put the ingredients and broth from the pots on top of the rice, and eat them. Since there are more helpings, I would like you to eat all three kinds and tell us your impressions.” (Dee)

“Is this it? Let’s see… Delicious!? This is delicious! I won’t be able to handle the rest!” (Noel)

“It’s a bit different from Aniki’s, but Katsudon is still the best!” (Reus)

“I like Oyakodon. The subtle sweetness is good.” (Reese)

“Everything is delicious, after all. I can’t choose which one.” (Emilia)

“I think I like Gyudon?” (Nokia)

Out of all who praised the dishes, I looked at Noir and she seemed enjoying eating it. She used the chopsticks skillfully, I guess Noel and Dee had taught her.

And when Emilia and Reese talked to Noir…

“Noir-chan, which one do you like?” (Reese)

“Oyakodon! It’s really delicious!” (Noir)

“As expected, she is the child of Onee-chan who shares the similar characteristic.” (Emilia)

“Of course.” (Noel)

She answered straightforwardly and was laughing.

In the past few days, Emilia and Reese were sleeping together in Noel and Noir’s room, it seemed that they were talking a lot before going to bed.

Furthermore, since they were often playing with her and taught her various things, from Noir’s perspective, they became like sisters who were kind and could be relied on. It would probably natural for them to be attached to one another.

Although it wasn’t at the level of those two, she often talked with Reus. It seems she allowed it to a certain extent. That might be because Reus’ presence was similar to Noel’s.

And the important part was me but…

“How about it Noir? Would you prefer for it to be sweeter?” (Sirius)

“…Yeah.” (Noir)

She was turning away even when I talked to her. The attitude of having trouble towards me hadn't changed.

However, when I looked for several days, I could understand the cause. Noir was jealous of me.

When hearing stories from Noel, she seemed to be told about my splendor from the time when she understood what was going on around herself. From Noir's perspective, she seemed to think that I was given more priority than her, so it was possible that she was jealous.

Such a person finally appeared before her eyes, and her parents gladly received him. Thus, it wasn't funny to praise that person every time for something.

Besides, she probably thought that the time for taking care of her was decreasing because of me. If others saw the situation, they would see no changes on Noel's affection, but Noir herself might feel that way.

Whatever it is, I don't think I'm being disliked from the way she talks to me.

So I made a cake and asked her how she felt, but… the result was an utter defeat.

She enjoyed eating the cake that I made, but she still turned away when I talked to her. Although it was cake made from my vast experience, in Noir's case, she probably resisted because Dee made one. It might be counterproductive due to the subtle differences in taste. For a child, the mother's… uhmm, the father's taste is the best.

In the end, the cake that I made for Noir was gladly finished by Noel and the disciples. Since she is Noel's only daughter, it's not going to be easy.

After that, I talked to her many times and tried to help her in various ways, but Noir's attitude remained unchanged.

We are not settling down here, and we are not going to return here when we begin our journey. However, I would like to be friends with Noel's and Dee's only daughter. If anything, I want to go on a journey without feeling regret.

I thought that I wanted to do something about it, so I decided to discuss it with all of us on the evening of the day.

After they made Noir go to bed, we gathered in the middle of the dining room, and held a strategy meeting with Noel's declaration.

"That is why… we're holding meeting about getting along with Noir-chan for the first time. Everybody, applause!" (Noel)

It was exactly the same tension as when I decided on my family name.

Since it was troublesome to get involved for the second time around or something, rather than passing the issue at hand around while being seriously worried, Noel raised her hand first and informed us of her plan. There was no need to raise hands because this was not a system of raising hands.

"How about stroking her with that 'god's hand' that made Emilia lose herself? Noir-chan's favorite stroking point is on the right side on the back of her head at a diagonal position." (Noel)

"Hey Onee-chan, do you think Noir will let him stroke her so easily?" (Emilia)

"Well, I am going to stop here, so let's do it during that gap!" (Noel)

"I told you! He hasn't made friends with her yet, so won't that be counterproductive!? I know that you admire Sirius-san, but as a mother, please understand Noir's feelings!" (Nokia)

"You don't have to tell me that! It's because both Noir and Sirius-sama are important. Emi-chan, Nokia-chan is bullying me…" (Noel)

"Yes, yes, you big child." (Emilia)

The reaction between the siblings just now is a daily occurrence. And, Noel was jumping into Emilia's chest while fake-crying. But that fake-crying face immediately changed to a difficult face, and she trembled with disappointment.

"Ughh… yours are bigger than mine after all. It is regrettable that it is soft and pleasant!" (Noel)

"That is because I worked hard for Sirius-sama. I am completely prepared at anytime." (Emilia)

“Well, you don’t have to be sad to that point, Noel-san. A woman is not only about their breasts.” (Reese)

“Yeah! Even I married such a charming husband. Nokia’s, which are smaller than mine, are absolutely…” (Noel)

“Yup, got it. Leave that matter aside!” (Nokia)

As we ignored them, the reason we gathered in the first place was to hear Noir’s real feelings. When I suggested that, Dee opened his mouth after thinking for a while.

“That girl has a stubborn part similar to Noel. When thinking about this matter, should Noel and I ask her to tell us?” (Dee)

“Wouldn’t Emilia or Reese be the right people for that? Well, you can decide who is going to ask later. As for now, we might as well think about another approach.” (Sirius)

Noir seems to respect her father, who she can rely on cooking, but the sight where her father praises me is probably not enjoyable.

But, the amazing Dee should notice that it won’t change anything, even if he praises me that much. Rather, it is me who has respects for Dee.

He made good use of what I taught him, and now he not only achieved his dream, he is also becoming a splendid father. I was seen as an irregular, based on my memory of my previous life, and a man who had nothing rose up because of my advice.

In other words, Dee was a wonderful and splendid existence. So, she doesn’t need to worry which one is superior, she only needs to think that her father is amazing, but it is a difficult task to convince 4-year-old kid.

It is best for her to realize and accept me herself, but is there any good plan?

Oh yeah… how about showing her how uncool I am? There might be a reaction if she is shown such a scene.

“Dee, do you want to have a mock match with me this time? Let’s show the scene where I’m losing.” (Sirius)

“I am sorry, but I cannot. Even though it’s on purpose, defeating master is something that I don’t want to do.” (Dee)

“What he says is right. For us, Sirius-sama is someone we should serve, not someone we should beat down. Noir-chan also certainly thinks that, so we don’t want to show her your appearance being defeated on purpose.” (Noel)

“My Aniki is the strongest! Don’t talk about losing!” (Reus)

Emilia who sat nearby also nodded many times and seemed to agree heartily.

Like they said, I am confident that I can win against most people, but I am a being that absolutely won’t lose. The world is big, so there must be many people and demons that are stronger than me. I must be careful not to let my disciples’ hearts break if I lose.

When I was thinking about something else, Noel raised her hand again and put forward another plan.

“Well, let’s have a cleaning match with me! I won’t have any problems winning because I have skills as an attendant, so Noir-chan will see her mother’s splendor!” (Noel)

“No, I don’t want to lose to Noel, so I reject it.” (Sirius)

“Why!?” (Noel)

Somehow I can’t say the reason. I don’t feel like losing to Noel.

Noel made a racket while pressing down with her hands, and then Emilia clapped her hands for a better idea.

“If that’s the case, shall we go on a picnic with everyone? If she plays happily and feels refreshed, she might tell us her real feelings, so she may be able to get along with Sirius-sama.” (Emilia)

Hmm… it’s not bad but there’s a little problem. As evidence, it was shown on Dee’s difficult face.

“I think it’s a good idea, but if the store is closed… I’ll feel sorry for those who come to eat.”

“…No, Dee-san should take a day off, anyway. You hardly took any days off since the opening of this shop, so please leave the dining room on that day to me and Noki-ane, and enjoy the holiday to the fullest.” (Alad)

“That makes me happy, but isn’t it impossible to manage the store with only two people?” (Dee)

“I will ask my other brothers and sisters for help. And I will mainly prepare the dishes in advance, in order to save some labor.” (Alad)

Alad was probably worried about Dee. I heard that the store only takes a day off whenever Dee was mildly sick, even Noel and Nokia nodded in agreement.

Since I also felt the same, wanting Dee to take a break, I should give him a push.

“How about making a campaign or something on that day? Today, make an announcement about new dishes, or narrow down the menu to something that is easy to make and they can only order that. This is not a story for today or tomorrow, so it would be better to explain to the customers by putting a poster up in advance.” (Sirius)

“Then, I will do it. He is constantly working in the shop, and the regulars know me.” (Nokia)

It is also a good opportunity to introduce the Donburi dishes, which were taught some time ago.

The menu of this store is plenty, and it takes time to prepare the various dishes. If it is narrowed down to a certain extent, I told them that a single dish might be able to do it alone.

“Ooh! If that’s the case, I may be able to manage this by myself. Dee-san, is this no good?” (Alad)

“Since our family has been taken care by Dee-san, my brothers and sisters are also willing to help.” (Nokia)

Pressed by Alad and Nokia, Dee smiled while letting out a sigh. I am also happy when he is deeply appreciated by his disciple and family.

By the way, Noel held Dee's arms while laughing, just to give him another push.

"I will also ask from you, my dear. You're not only working every day, but also accompanying Noir-chan, so please take a break more often. Everyone in our family will be sad if you collapse." (Noel)

"…Thank you. I'll accept the offer." (Dee)

"Yes! I'll show you that I can handle it alone." (Alad)

"Aah, in the end, it was Onee-chan after all. You're stealing the good parts." (Nokia)

"Huhummm, I cannot give my husband to anyone. Right, D-E-A-R." (Noel)

"Aah… I also cannot give Noel up for anyone. And now, Noir too." (Dee)

"Dear…" (Noel)

"Noel…" (Dee)

…This pink air hasn't changed at all.

I guess they got used to it. Alad and Nokia shook their heads, making 'Dear me' looks. They tore their gazes away from the two and started to prepare new tea.

By the way, Emilia and Reese were viewing the sight enviously, and Reus pretty much began shadowing Hokuto's tail, who slept in the corner of the room. That's interesting, I'll try that later as well.

After that, we joined the two who regained themselves, and decided the date of the picnic.

It seemed alright to a certain extent when we decided it several days later, after confirming with the rest of the families who worked in other places, they seemed to readily agree to the request.

Meanwhile, Alad repeatedly made Gyudon and other Donburi dishes, and saved himself from the redundant labor in cooking.

On a side story, Reus' face was beaten by Hokuto's tail. It was a big mistake if you think you can win against Hokuto's tail alone.

◆ ◆ ◆

A few days later, the day of the picnic came.

The weather was spectacular sunny, perhaps it was great picnic weather.

We would be going with these three: Noel, Dee and Noir. Since I got up earlier than usual, I started to prepare and reserved a large amount of food for pre-made meals, so we can avoid the worst situation where there's no food supply.

While we prepared a lot of lunch boxes, the preparation of a leisure kit was completed by Reus.

"I'm counting on you for today. But do not push yourself." (Dee)

"Please leave it to me. I have been preparing so far, and I won't fail you." (Alad)

"Please don't worry because I'm watching too. Onee-chan and Dee-san, please take your time." (Nokia)

The other brothers and sisters seemed to be coming just before noon, so there won't be any problems since they worked here before. We were sent off by Alad and Nokia, and we went outside the town.

Our destination was somewhere at a nearby forest. According to Noel, there was a very good place over there. Although it was not far, Noir was worried about her endurance as a child, but was relieved since she was riding on Hokuto's back.

Noir was in a good mood from this morning, and she was having fun on Hokuto's back. Noel was also humming while following by her side, it was a very peaceful sight.

"Onee-chan and Noir-chan also look like they are having fun, Sirius-sama. If it's like this, it's possible to make friends with her." (Emilia)

“Hopefully, it will go well. It’s good to have fun, but don’t forget to be on guard.” (Sirius)

“Leave it to me, Aniki!” (Reus)

“I will definitely protect Noir-chan.” (Emilia)

The attires of Noel and the rest were easy to move in and were comfortable to wear. On the other hand, we were carrying weapons and wearing the mantles we got from school. In other words, these were the equipment we were using when we are traveling.

According to Noel, there were no monsters near the town, but we must be armed if we go beyond that. We are going together to have fun, but we look more like escorts.

Of course, they were withheld from being told that this was an escort, but we were going to be traveling from now on, so they were convinced that it would be training in case we received an escort quest from the guild. Of course, we planned to have fun, so we would enjoy this.

In the beginning, this was about getting along with Noir, but today was the first time for Dee and the others to have a break. In that case, let’s be careful not to think too much.

◆ ◆ ◆

By Noel’s guidance, we entered the nearby forest, and after walking for a while, we reached the place where the trees were opened.

There was a small river flowing nearby, and there were nearby places with blooming flowers; it looked like a cozy place. The river was a beautiful clear stream and the bottom of it was shallow. Plus, there was no appearance of monsters lurking around. Since this was a place where trees were opened, we can see the monsters as soon as they appear. Noel said this was the only good place.

Noir, who had been shoulder-carried by Dee from the back of Hokuto, was looking at the scenery that was spread before her with glittering eyes.

“Uwaah…amazing. I didn’t know there was such a place.” (Noir)

“This is also Otou-san’s first time here, and it is a nice place.” (Dee)

“It’s the perfect place to take it easy. Was there always such a good place nearby?” (Sirius)

“Actually, this place is known to the people in the town to some extent. But, since this is still outside of the town, there is the possibility that a monster might come out, so they don’t want to get too close.” (Noel)

In short, the reason why the people in the town hardly go to this place is that they have no combat capability. On the contrary, we have trained accordingly, our sensing abilities are high, and there was also Hokuto, who was more sensitive than anyone else. It’s the ideal place for us.

“Hey, let’s take a rest and be impressed later. First is the blanket for seats…” (Noel)

“Sirius-sama, the blanket is ready.” (Emilia)

Emilia had already finished preparing the blanket before Noel took it from Reus, who was holding it.

“Since it is still early for lunch, let’s make some tea and rest…” (Noel)

“Here you go, Sirius-sama. I have prepared for everyone else as well.” (Emilia)

Again, before Noel made a move, Emilia had prepared cups for a several number of people, and poured the tea, which had been put in the thermos flask made by the Galgan Company, for everyone.

“As I expected, to play Frisbee in a place like this is…” (Noel)

“I’m going to take it easy on everyone, so please!” (Emilia)

And then, Emilia was wagging her tail while presenting the Frisbee before Noel even moved. Of course, it goes without saying that Reus and Hokuto were lined up next to each other.

“Uwaaa! Emi-chan, please take it easy on me! I also want to take care of Sirius-sama!” (Noel)

“I cannot handed over the care of Sirius-sama to anyone. Besides, today is a holiday for Onee-chan, so I want you to enjoy it and don’t mind about this.” (Emilia)

“I understand that, but can you give me a little bit it to do. Aahh… so soft.” (Noel)

Leaving the married woman, who felt at ease on Emilia’s chest, we sat on the blanket and took a break. When I told Hokuto and the siblings that this place was too small to play Frisbee, the shoulder-carried Noir made a noise while pointing at the river.

“Otou-san, river! I want to go the river!” (Noir)

“Noir is so excited. Alright, shall we go?” (Dee)

“Although this is the long awaited break, will that be alright?” (Noel)

“There’s no problem since I had enough rest.” (Dee)

Dee understood while smiling at his daughter’s urging. He stood up after drinking some tea. Noir was engrossed with the river and she didn’t seem troubled being with me, so I decided to stay near Dee to get a little bit familiar with her.

Dee and Noir took off their shoes, they entered the river that only immersed up to their ankles and started to play.

After a while, Dee and Reese changed places, and he came next to me, who was sitting near the river. Dee muttered while narrowing his eyes at the sight where Reese and Noir enjoyed playing with the water.

“I haven’t play too much with Noir because I always worked. But that child is still emotionally attached to a person like me. She is a strange one.” (Dee)

“Well, that is because you are a parent and his daughter, and Noir completely understands your kindness. Isn’t she a clever and good girl?” (Sirius)

“Yes, she is our priceless treasure, our proud daughter. But it is regrettable that she doesn’t think well about Sirius-sama. Without Sirius-sama, we couldn’t do this leisurely…” (Dee)

“I only helped a bit. Well, don’t worry about it. Aren’t you guys longing for me because of the many years you guys have been associated with me? She doesn’t know a thing about me and we just met, so there’s no point in forcing her.” (Sirius)

“I understand that, but I still… think about this. For me, as an attendant, and as a parent… Raising a child is really difficult, isn’t it?” (Dee)

There was a matter of raising up my disciples, but I never raised a child since I have never had one. I had picked up a disciple as young as Noir, but it was different in its own way when raising someone since they were born. Because of that, I can’t give any good advice. However…

“If there is one thing I can say, the way you and Noel have raised her is not wrong. Look, smiling happily like that is proof that she has grown up wonderfully. Not only that girl, you guys have also grown up together through parenting, which is a good thing. Leaving that matter aside, isn’t today your day off? You’re not only resting your mind, you also need to rest your body more.” (Sirius)

“Yeah… you’re right. Thank you very much.” (Dee)

Dee was worried while smiling bitterly, but he probably calmed down by looking at his smiling daughter. With a satisfying expression, he lied down and rested on the spot.

◆ ◆ ◆

After that, they played awhile, and then we gathered on the blanket because it was already lunch time.

Everyone was sitting in a circle, three of them were waiting with glittering eyes as Emilia finished distributing the lunchboxes. No, today Noir was joining too, so there are four of them. If it goes around like that, I will also be hungry.

“Sirius-sama, the preparation is over.” (Emilia)

“Thank you for your hard work. Shall we, then?” (Sirius)

With my words as a signal, everyone reached for the lunchboxes all at once. They were picnic-like lunchboxes with colorful sandwiches and rice balls with various side dishes, such as Karaage and Tamagoyaki.

I was having trouble about what to take. Since I was getting it a bit late, Emilia presented a plate with a sandwich, and I accepted it. When I tried it at once, I remembered the memory of the past in spite of the nostalgic taste. The ingredients for this sandwich was similar to when we went for a picnic with mother.

"…I miss this. Emilia offered me like this at that time." (Sirius)

"Did you remember!?" (Emilia)

"Of course. It's the dish that you made for the first time." (Sirius)

"Aah… I am happy…" (Emilia)

At that time, the taste was a bit deep, but now it is a perfect taste that matches my tongue. Although Noel also can do it because she has a child, Emilia was growing up too.

I looked at Emilia who had an ecstatic expression while wagging her tail, and when I suddenly turned to the side, I saw Noir enjoying her sandwich.

Next to her, Noel was caring diligently, and wiping the bread crumbs and sauce on her mouth with a handkerchief.

"Is it delicious, Noir-chan?" (Noel)

"Yes! It is very delicious!" (Noir)

"Is that so? Try this too. This is your father's proud dish." (Dee)

Dee took a sandwich out of a lunchbox and handed it to Noir. That sandwich is the latest production they planned to sell in store next time.

I had sampled it, and I thought Noir will surely like it, but… she felt a little uncomfortable with the sandwich she was given.

"This is also delicious! Otou-san is the best, after all." (Noir)

"Yup, your dishes is the best… wait a minute, Noir-chan. Could that be the one that Sirius-sama made?" (Noel)

“Eh?” (Noir)

“Mu… no, it’s not. I made this one.” (Dee)

Yeah, I think I know why she felt uncomfortable, Dee gave Noir the one that I made.

Since it was Dee’s completely new production, I also learned and tried making it this morning… it seemed the seasoning was similar enough to fool Noir.

Because of that, I might have felt somewhat satisfied, until it was too late to notice the ‘bomb’ that was catching fire before me.

“Huhu, oh Noir-chan. Sirius-sama’s meal was delicious enough to make you mistake it for Otou-san’s meal.” (Noel)

“W-why…?” (Noir)

“You always eat it anyways, but in reality, Sirius-san’s meal is also delicious, right? How about becoming more honest?” (Reese)

It was too late when I tried to stop them. Noel looked at Noir, who was trembling with a face that was almost crying, and her mouth closed up when she noticed her clumsy words, but… it was too late.

“Th-this person’s meal is not delicious!” (Noir)

“N-noir-chan!?” (Noel)

“Rather than his, Otou-san’s meal is… is far better! Don’t say such a thing, Okaa-san!” (Noir)

“Hey, Noir. You must not say such a thing. Because of Sirius-sama, we…” (Dee)

“Otou-san and Okaa-san too, why do you praise this person so much!? Otou-san and Okaa-san are better than this person… so why!?” (Noir)

“”…”” (Dee/Noel)

Noel and Dee were unable to retort Noir's outcry. It would have been better if they clearly said that they were better here, but those two attendants couldn't say anything back.

Whether Noir was shocked with their reactions, she stood up while shedding tears.

"Why aren't you saying anything!? Say that Otou-san is amazing, Okaa-san too!" (Noir)

"…Sorry." (Dee)

"…I'm sorry." (Noel)

"!? O-otou-san and Okaa-san… stupiddd!" (Noir)

As soon as Noir threw out her real feelings, which had been accumulated from the bottom of the heart, she ran away while crying.

"Noir-chan! Wait, don't go over there!" (Noel)

"Wait a sec, Noir!" (Dee)

There were few monsters here because it was a shallow point in the forest, but there was a high possibility that dangerous monsters were lurking deep in the forest.

Her parents were shouting for that reason, but Noir did not stop running towards the depths of the forest.

If I say it frankly… it is easy to stop Noir right now. That was because Hokuto and I can run and forcibly catch her.

But, it's probably futile to say anything to Noir in her present condition.

I think it was necessary to settle this at once and I should cushion it through someone.

I had been activating [Search] since a while ago, but since I couldn't feel any signs getting close to Noir, I just let her run away.

"Aniki!" (Reus)

"Sirius-sama! Let's chase her immediately!" (Emilia)

“Yeah! It will be dangerous for that child alone!” (Reese)

“Calm down. There is no reaction of monsters approaching that girl, so she is going to be alright for a while. However… you two.” (Sirius)

I calmed down Emilia and Reese, who were panicking, and I put my hands on the shoulders of the parents who were rejected by their own daughter.

They looked like they wanted to give a chase at once, but because they didn’t know whether they should chase her or not after being told what was said earlier.

I talked gently to calm down the two who had despair expressions altogether.

“Can you leave this to us? We will surely bring Noir back, so you guys should consider what to say to that girl when she comes back.” (Sirius)

Looking at those two who nodded quietly with a look that would cry at any moment, we commenced our operation.

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 1

[Elena’s Dining Room]… at that time.

“Gyudon, five servings! Oyakodon, four servings! Katsudon, ten servings coming!” (Nokia)

“Wait a moment! We don’t have enough rice!” (Alad)

“Nii-san, it seems the cutlet for Katsudon has been sliced! I’m going to fry it!” (??)

“Nokia-neesan! The rice is cooked!” (??)

“Oyakodon, add five more!” (Nokia)

“Not enough! Cook more!” (??)

…It was a considerable ‘scene of carnage’.

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 2

Author: (It's just a joke)

What if Noel was the one who ran away?

"Dear and Noir-chan, stupiddd!" (Noel)

"Noel!?" (Dee)

"Okaa-san!" (Noir)

Sirius prepares a pudding quietly.

She stops… turns back… and eats the pudding.

And…

"Dear and Noir-chan, stupiddd!" (Noel)

"Is it no use!?" (Sirius)

Chapter 65
The Past and Present Me

“Can you leave this to us? We will surely bring Noir back, so you guys should consider what to say to that girl when she comes back.” (Sirius)

The ones who wanted to chase after the running away Noir were probably Noel and Dee.

But, there was a possibility that they would be asked the earlier question again, even if they chase her now,

<Otou-san and Okaa-san too, why do you praise this person so much!? Otou-san and Okaa-san are better than this person… so why!?> (Noir)

From the point of their view as an attendant, it will be like choosing between me and Noir. I am fine if they openly choose Noir, but they cannot lie by condescending me, who they have received favors from. Is this the detrimental effect of being yearned for?

However, this is also a good opportunity to know the reality.

It is not a problem to think that her parents are amazing, but Noir must know that they are not absolute beings.

Whatever it is, this can’t be discussed unless they talk face-to-face, so I have to safely secure Noir.

Nonetheless, I think maybe one or two should go because she might be cautious if she get picked up by a group of four people.

I told Emilia and Reese to chase her, since they were on good terms with her. In the meantime, Reus would be the escort for Noel and Dee…

“Wait a second, Aniki!” (Reus)

He was standing in front of Emilia and Reese who tried to chase Noir.

Fundamentally, Reus doesn't go against his sister, and he is a devoted man who accepts my instructions with an immediate reply. For Reus to stand in the way, and without following my instructions… is, somehow, an unusual sight.

"What is it, Reus? Move away from there quickly." (Emilia)

"Yeah. Noir-chan doesn't know how to fight, so we have to hurry." (Reese)

"That's not good, Nee-chan. I want you to wait a second, please. Say, Aniki, can you… leave Noir to me?" (Reus)

"…Explain." (Sirius)

I didn't intend to imply that he was being narrow-minded when he didn't follow my instructions. Rather, I was pleased at Reus' independency, but I decided to listen to his reason anyhow.

"Uhmmm… I feel that Noir resembles the past me. That's why, I can, somehow, understand her feelings…" (Reus)

"Is that why you want to persuade her? The other side is a timid child. Are you confident that you can convince her?" (Sirius)

"…I don't know. But, I think I can understand her feelings… so I'd like to say something to her." (Reus)

Come to think of it, Reus hated me when he was small. The reason was caused by a jealousy at the one who picked his sister up, and at the moment, Noir was certainly similar to the past Reus.

Something similar… this might be a chance.

"Understood. I will leave it to you." (Sirius)

"Is that alright?" (Emilia)

"Yeah, do whatever you want to do." (Sirius)

"Aniki… thanks." (Reus)

Reus deeply lowered his head, but it won't be good if we didn't ask her parents.

Apparently, they were somehow listening. When I looked back and met with their gaze, they nodded calmly, and entrusted everything to Reus while regaining themselves.

"Reus… please take care of Noir-chan." (Noel)

"…Please." (Dee)

"Leave it to me! Isn't she Noel-nee and Dee-nii's precious treasure? I will definitely bring her back!" (Reus)

The two, who understood Reus during that time, probably thought that he would understand Noir's feelings. They entrusted Reus while smiling because of Reus' absolute pledge to bring her back.

Reus was somehow pleased with their reliance, he awaited my instructions, while being motivated with some tension.

"Alright, Reus, go and pick Noir up. Emilia and Reese, stay here and guard these two. Hokuto and I will go and survey the surroundings." (Sirius)

"Yes. Reus, please escort Noir properly." (Emilia)

"Good luck, Reus." (Reese)

"Yeah! Well then, I'm going!" (Reus)

After seeing Reus run off, I looked at a different direction from where Reus was heading to, while gently stroking the nearby Hokuto's head. Whether Emilia guessed from that behavior, she approached me and whispered.

"Sirius-sama, is there something?" (Emilia)

"…There are some reactions of monsters over there, so I'm going to exterminate them for a bit." (Sirius)

"If that's the case, I will also…" (Emilia)

“No, you just have to worry those two here. It’s not a big deal, so just stay by their side.” (Sirius)

“…Understood. If there’s something, please feel free to contact me.” (Emilia)

Then, Emilia saw me off while caressing the magic stone attached to her choker.

After brushing her head, I got on Hokuto’s back, who was already lying down, and left to exterminate the monsters in the surrounding area.

What, the number of monsters was around 50. With Hokuto and I, it would be easy to clean them up.

The main issue here was not me, but Reus.

Honestly, I wanted to let Emilia and Reese handle her because they were girls, but Reus asserted himself against my instructions.

Instead of a loving feeling, this perceptive guy clearly understood Noir’s feelings. I kept watching Reus’ growth, and I trusted him because I knew his character, so I decided to take the risk.

Moreover, it was a chance to return the favor of Noel and Dee taking care of him.

Respond to their trust, Reus.

◆ ◆ ◆

— Reus —

After separating from Aniki, I ran into the forest, but it seemed my target, Noir, was still inside the forest.

I couldn’t perceive things like Aniki, but I would know immediately which way she went because of my nose. Since Noir’s smell resembled Noel-nee, I could find her even in such a gloomy forest. By the way, Nee-chan told me that she could sniff Aniki’s smell even from the other side of a mountain. It sounds unbelievable, but since it seems to be true, she is terrifying, you know.

I stopped many times on the way and kept chasing Noir, while confirming the smell. When I found that the smell was getting stronger, I knew I was getting closer to her.

Nevertheless, I was worried because the foothold was bad in this forest.

I was fine because I was used to it, but Noir was not trained around a forest like us. Since there were places where some of the earth was scooped out, there was a high possibility that Noir was stuck and fell.

She must certainly be disheartened after saying such things to Noel-nee and Dee-nii, running away and becoming alone after that.

Although Aniki said that there won't be any danger, I had to find her soon.

After that, I found Noir after I ran from that place for a bit, but I kicked the ground before calling out to her.

Anyway, because of she tripped over a tree root, she was about to roll down a slope when I found her. I activated [Boost] earlier before I could think; I jumped while aiming for Noir and succeeded in catching her in the mid-air.

If I had dealt with this calmly, I probably would have had a hold on the ground while carrying Noir, but since I was in a hurry and jumped vigorously, I fell and rolled down on the slope.

I held her close to my body and protected her with my back while continuously rolling down. It seemed we were about to hit a tree on the way, but I repelled it forcibly with my legs and hand, and avoided a direct hit by smashing the tree.

I did not know how many times we rotated, but the momentum stopped when the place finally became flat, and then I quickly confirmed Noir's condition.

"Are you alright, Noir?" (Reus)

"Onii…-chan?" (Noir)

"Yeah, it's me. Are you hurt anywhere?" (Reus)

"It doesn't hurt anywhere, but… you are going round and round…" (Noir)

After rolling so many times, Noir's eyes seemed to be turning around, and she looked at me absentmindedly. I am fine because I had trained my semicircular canals from my training with Aniki many times.

It seemed she was conscious since she was calling me Onii-chan, and I unintentionally let out a relieved sigh, since I didn't see any noticeable injuries.

"Don't worry about it because you will feel better after a while. Look, you can sit down and wake your body…!?" (Reus)

"…What's wrong?" (Noir)

"It's nothing. Come, sit down on my lap and take a break." (Reus)

"…Alright." (Noir)

For the time being, I sat cross-legged, put Noir on my lap and let her rest.

In the meantime, I confirmed that my left hand was numb, or perhaps I should say, hurts, and I couldn't move it. I thought it was probably due to smashing the tree with an unreasonable force, but I decided to keep silent about it because it looked like Noir would worry about it.

I would be healed if Reese-nee or Aniki was here, but they weren't here at the moment. Fortunately, I am used to the pain because of the training with Aniki and Jii-chan.

If I transform, the recovery of the injuries will quicken because I do that once in awhile, but I will see nothing but enemies in that state and I will scare Noir, so it's not good then. Anyway, let's endure it until I return with her.

◆ ◆ ◆

We stayed like that awhile, and when Noir finally calmed down, she looked up at me and spoke worriedly.

"Onii-chan. What about Otou-san… and Okaa-san?" (Noir)

"Yeah? Hmm…" (Reus)

"As I expected. That person is more important than me…" (Noir)

“There is no such thing! Noel-nee and Dee-nii absolutely don’t think that at all!” (Reus)

I had surprised Noir because my voice grew louder, but she calmed down when I stroked her head. I couldn’t do it as well as Aniki, but I was glad since that’s the only thing I could do.

“I just found Noir earlier. Noel-nee and Dee-nii are really worried about Noir.” (Reus)

“But I called Otou-san and Okaa-san stupid… they must be angry. After all, they will only see that person. That person ‘stole’ Otou-san and Okaa-san…” (Noir)

“Noir…” (Reus)

Oh man… she’s really like the past me.

Nee-chan and I were rescued by Aniki.

But, the me at that time didn’t understand the meaning of being rescued well, I really hated Aniki since he ‘stole’ Nee-chan.

Even when I ran away, and told him that I was no good since a cursed child was an existence that should be killed. I sulked because a part of Nee-chan was ‘stolen’ by Aniki. And I was only aware about it when I grew up.

That was why I wanted to talk to this child. It is true that Noel-nee and Dee-nii are yearning for Aniki, but by all means, they surely have Noir. My Nee-chan was engrossed with Aniki, but I was really worried and cried when I was stopped.

What I wanted her to know was that he is the benefactor of Noel-nee and Dee-nii’s child, and above all… I still hate myself now for misunderstanding my respected Aniki at that time.

“Look, Noir. When I was at Noir’s age, I really hated Aniki.” (Reus)

“Eh!? You mean that person?” (Noir)

“It’s true. At that time, I really hated Aniki and sometimes I would bite his hand, you know?” (Reus)

Noir's eyes narrowed while muttering 'unbelievable' quietly. Noir met Aniki only for a few days, so it couldn't be helped for her to believe me when I showed how much I respected Aniki so many times.

"Aah, you don't believe me. Well, it may not be obvious, but I was exactly like Noir in the past. Nee-chan was engrossed with Aniki, and I thought that Aniki had taken her away. Because of that, Noir is thinking that Noel-nee and Dee-nii were taken away. See, am I right?" (Reus)

"It's a lie! If you hate him, why do you keep saying he is amazing!? (Noir)

"Hehe, I normally think that too. But, Aniki was amazing from then on." (Reus)

Subsequently, I told her about my past.

For me, it was an embarrassing and miserable past, but I thought the present Noir would understand it.

I ran away after thinking that Nee-chan was taken away, I was stopped and beaten by Aniki, and then I told Nee-chan that she was stupid while hugging her.

"That was how i got rescued by Aniki, and came to adore him. And I realized that Nee-chan was properly watching me. That is why Noel-nee and Dee-nii are not taken away; they are just watching how amazing Aniki is. There's nothing about not looking at Noir at all, you know." (Reus)

"…Really?" (Noir)

"Yes, of course. If I'm wrong, I'll give you all of my puddings and cakes." (Reus)

"…Alright, I will believe you." (Noir)

It's pointless to wage my desserts for such a matter because it definitely won't happen. She is Noel-nee's daughter, after all. She understands the importance of desserts very well.

"If you want to ask that, shall we go back? Not only Noel-nee and Dee-nii, but also Aniki and Nee-chan are worried." (Reus)

"But, I said they were stupid… they must be angry." (Noir)

“Noel-nee and Dee-nii won’t get mad and they don’t mind. If they are angry, I think that is because you have come to this place without permission.” (Reus)

“Will they be angry about that?” (Noir)

“Being angry means they care about Noir. They will surely forgive you if you apologize, so don’t worry about it and let’s go back… alright?” (Reus)

“…Alright.” (Noir)

I thought about what would happen at one point, but I was glad that Noir nodded.

She couldn’t get on my back since I was carrying a greatsword, so I let Noir sit on my right arm and carried her, and then I looked up at the hill slope.

◆ ◆ ◆

Apparently, I had rolled down a considerable distance, and it seemed difficult to get back directly from here. This place was an open space without trees. When I was walking, looking for a way to climb somewhere, I noticed that Noir was staring at me.

“What is it? Is there something on my face? (Reus)

“Hmmm, I think that Onii-chan is amazing. You lifted me up by chance, and I am not hurt since you protected me even when we fell from such a place.” (Noir)

“That is because I was trained by Aniki. But if it was Aniki, he will not only rescue you, he also wouldn’t fall down.” (Reus)

“Muuu…” (Noir)

Aah… crap. I unintentionally talked about Aniki’s splendor. I was late to notice it as Noir already puffed her cheeks up and was watching me in a bad mood.

“Say, Onii-chan. Why does everyone say that person, Sirius…-sama, is amazing? Although Otou-san and Okaa-san are amazing…” (Noir)

“…Yeah, Noir-chan is right, Noel-nee and Dee-nii are amazing.” (Reus)

“I know, right?! Otou-san’s homemade meals are amazing, and Okaa-san uses awesome magic! Absolutely, definitely! Otou-san and Okaa-san are more amazing!” (Noir)

Noir was having a lot of fun when she talked about Noel-nee and Dee-nii. They were really like parents and a child. However, that was the feeling when Noel-nee and Dee-nii talked about Aniki.

“As for you, Noir, Noel-nee and Dee-nii are the most amazing. But, how about Noel-nee and Dee-nii altogether?” (Reus)

“Altogether? What do you mean by that?” (Noir)

“As you have said, Noel-nee and Dee-nii are amazing, but for them, Aniki… Sirius-sama is the most amazing. So, I couldn’t say what Noir wanted me to say.” (Reus)

“But… Otou-san and Okaa-san are the best.” (Noir)

“Look, Noir. They are surely the best. But there are a lot more amazing people other than them and Aniki, you know? Didn’t you say I was amazing earlier?” (Reus)

“Aah…” (Noir)

“I have met various people until now and I have seen many amazing people. But, no matter how many people I have seen, no matter how much experience I get, for me, Aniki is still the best.” (Reus)

I was hugged by Elena, who was like a mother, and I was taught about swordsmanship by Jii-chan. However… the biggest of all was Aniki. I think that alone would not change.

“Who the most amazing person is depends on each person. That’s why, for you Noir, aren’t the most amazing people Noel-nee and Dee-nii? Although others are amazing, the most amazing people for you won’t change, right?” (Reus)

“My most…” (Noir)

“Yeah. Noir’s number one will not change. Therefore, tell Aniki about your current feelings. You should tell him what you want to say, like don’t take away your Otou-san.” (Reus)

“He will get angry if I say that!” (Noir)

“Aniki is not that childish. Even if you say that he is stupid, he won’t get angry.” (Reus)

“…Really?” (Noir)

“Whatever you do, I’ll be by your side. So, you can say whatever you want to say, Noir. If it is Noel-nee, she will say it properly.” (Reus)

“…Alright, I got it.” (Noir)

“Good! Let’s return quickly…” (Reus)

The moment I thought about rushing up the slope at once with [Boost] without changing my mind, I noticed the presence of monsters from the surroundings.

Damn it… I was careless.

I was too absorbed with the conversation, and it was too late to notice when the enemies were closing in. This was a failure I couldn’t show to Aniki.

But, this was not a worrying situation. When I regained myself and sensed their presences better, the number was about thirty.

It seemed no big sized enemy from their presence, so I thought that there won’t be any problems to defeat them. I was properly taught about how to deal with ambushes.

But…

“What’s wrong Onii-chan?” (Noir)

How should I protect Noir…

I saved a woman who was kidnapped by goblins in the past, but the enemies at that time were weak-headed goblins. There was no need to protect the woman because when they charged at me, they ran away after I threatened them.

But the enemies this time didn’t seem to be similar.

“Damn… for these guys to show up at this time.” (Reus)

“Hiii!?” (Noir)

The figures of the monsters that slowly appeared from the surrounding trees were black wolves that were no taller than half my height. They’re monsters called Dyna Wolves, which were characterized by hunting in groups. As a single enemy, they’re not strong, but it’s troublesome when taking the assaults from the herds’ cooperation.

To make matters worse, they are troublesome monsters that move quickly, but are not difficult enemies for the present me to beat. The problem is the characteristics of the Dyna Wolves.

I was told by Aniki, based on the book he read, that Dyna Wolves seemed to aim instinctively for weak opponents. And the weakest one in this place was Noir, and no matter how much I stood in their way and threatened them, they were likely to continue aiming for her.

On top of that, this place was free of trees, so to lean against a tree was nearly impossible, and the situation was bad since my left hand’s numbness still remained.

But… I have to do it.

When I put Noir down as I had become determined, she grabbed my clothes while trembling, and looked up at me.

“Onii-chan…” (Noir)

That’s right… this girl is the priceless treasure of my two benefactors.

I will protect her by any means!

I took off the mantle that I wore; I put it on Noir and smiled.

“It’s alright Noir. I will absolutely protect you, so put this mantle on and stay put.” (Reus)

“B-but! This many…” (Noir)

“It’s not a problem, no matter how many of these monsters gather together. Anyhow, I’m going to swing my sword, so please let go of my hand. However, never ever leave my side.” (Reus)

“Y-yeah!” (Noir)

Although Noir should be scared, she slowly let go of my hand, and she was watching me while shedding tears.

I covered her with the hood of the mantle so her head and her lovely red hair won’t get dirty with blood.

“Close your eyes and ears and start counting numbers. It will be over when I poke your shoulder.” (Reus)

“Yeah, got it. Uhmm… One, two…” (Noir)

“…Good girl.” (Reus)

After rearranging my mind, I turned my eyes towards the monsters growling around me. It was too late to hold down my bloodlust when it was already at its limit.

It seemed that these monsters did not have any long range attacks, so let’s do preemptive strikes to reduce their numbers. I pulled out the sword and struck the ground, and created some flames in my right hand.

“[Flame Knuckle]… Shot!” (Reus)

It would be the usual [Flame Knuckle] if I hit with it as it is, but with an image of [Flame Lance], this could become a long range attack. When I made a huge swing and threw the flame, it caused an explosion the moment it landed. I thought two or three of them were defeated with that.

However, as if that became the commencement of the battle, the surrounding wolves were all attacking at the same time as the explosion. Heh… bring it on.

“Come at me!” (Reus)

There was no other choice but to use my partner, the greatsword… [Silver Fang] with one arm since I couldn’t used my left arm.

I was glad since it could be done with my dominant hand, but it was still somewhat heavy to use with only one hand. But, since I was trained and taught by Aniki to use it

with one hand at times of emergency, there would be no problem to use it like that for a short moment.

At the same time I pulled out the sword that was stuck in the ground, I slashed the monsters that approached from the front in half, and when I used the same force to swing it sideways, I sliced the monsters that were coming from the side.

“Eleven… Twelve…” (Noir)

“Oryaaa!” (Reus)

I also knew the monsters that were aiming for me were decoys. There were five wolves aiming for Noir, who was sitting down, from the rear, and they didn’t miss the chance to jump at the same time to attack.

“If you want to attack, it will be impossible unless you have more than six!” (Reus)

‘Single Strike Ultimate Destruction Style’ – [Shattering], a technique of slashing eight times in one breath. *(TLN: Full name is 剛破一刀流、乱ノ剣『散破』- a tentative name)*

I still couldn’t do six slashes yet, but it was good enough with five slashes if I did it once. The wolves that couldn’t move in the air were shredded with my sword and blood was splashing around. I was bathed with blood grandly, but there was no problem because Noir was under the mantle.

Even so, the burden was huge with one arm, and I sensed that the arm, which held the sword, was making creaking sounds, but there were nearly twenty enemies left.

When I made a painful expression, one of the wolves that crawled on the ground jumped in.

“Don’t you touch Noir!” (Reus)

I couldn’t bring my sword back in time, and my left hand… was not moving. Since that’s the case, I’ll use my body.

The wolf opened its mouth wide trying to bite, but since I intercepted it with my whole body and raised my right arm, it reflexively bit that arm. The wolf put strength into its jaws to crunch my arm, but I swung the arm before it could do that, and it mowed

down on the other wolves. One of its fangs came out since I swung with full force, and the blood started to flow out of my arm.

It was painful, but I had no time to complain because the wolves were still getting closer.

Damn it, if I could use my left arm, I wouldn't be having such a hard time fighting these guys.

If it became like this, should I call for help with the choker's magic stone which I got from Aniki? No, even if I called him now, would I able to meet with him?

In the first place, it was not strange for Aniki to notice this, but he was probably testing me out or there was a reason why he couldn't come.

I thought there was a low possibility of testing me out when judging from the situation I was in and about Noir's safety, so there was a high possibility he had a reason for not coming.

"Alright, let's do this!" (Reus)

Noir was about to be attacked again while I was in the middle of thinking, so I had to swing the sword to repel them away. My left shoulder was bitten during that gap, and the skin was immediately peeled off as I fell to the ground.

Damn it, even if I was used to it, it still hurts. I felt that the hand holding the sword was getting starting to lose its grip due to the pain.

This is bad… Noir will be in serious danger if this keeps going like this.

Unlike me, it will be a fatal wound if this child receives even a single blow. If she is bitten once, or wounded… I will not only betray Noir, but also Noel-nee and Dee-nii. If that happens, I am not qualified to call myself Aniki's disciple, and I absolutely cannot forgive myself.

This is not the time to hesitate.

"Onii-chan!" (Noir)

When I noticed that sudden voice, seven wolves were jumping at the same time.

Damn it! I can't do the [Shattering], and it's no good if I can only swing five times right now.

Although I was planning to use 'that', why weren't you still closing your eyes!?

When I looked back while awakening to the anger, Noir was cheering me hard while shedding tears.

There was something in those innocent eyes that I felt from her gaze, her belief in me.

At that time… I had decided.

Even if those eyes turned into fear, I will protect you!

The same as Aniki… I will protect those who I want to protect.

"Uuu… oooo!" (Reus)

I finished transforming in an instant.

As something resounded from within my body, my body became a little bit bigger, it was fully covered with silvery hair and the blood flow stopped all at the same time.

The pain was still there but since I could move my left arm, I grabbed the sword with both hands and used [Shattering], slicing seven times, and slurring all seven wolves.

Two wolves were quickly approaching me; one was cut with the sword while the other was grabbed by its head, and I crushed its bones. Together with a dull sound, I repelled the annihilated wolves, and then I swung the sword onto the ground and released [Wave Slash], a wide range of shock waves that blew away several wolves.

Aah… It was a tough struggle until a while ago.

Wouldn't this be quick if I used it out front rather than holding the enemies?

Yes, before…

"It's not that!" (Reus)

Noir would be in danger if I went ahead.

I transformed in order to protect her. This is not for defeating the enemy!

While keeping the urge to kill the enemies, I continued slashing the wolves that were attacking without coordination.

I didn't only cut them, I also beat them down sometimes, grabbed their bodies and smashed them. The urge to kill the monsters was getting stronger.

Yeah… this is for killing.

No! It is for protecting!

Won't I save her if I defeat them?

That's not it! The one who is behind me is a child who can't fight!

I… am no good if I can't protect her!

Yeah… I… I…

"I… became stronger to protect… arrghh!" (Reus)

To protect the small existence that I felt behind me…

I kept on swinging… in order to get closer to the back of the one that I yearned for.

And what reflected in my eyes when things became calmed was the figure of the remaining wolves running away, and Noir, who was staring at me dumbfoundedly.

Chapter 66
The Two who Realized

— Reus —

Of the monster group that was composed of close to thirty, there were only a few left when they finally ran away.

I wanted to exterminate them because it's possible that they'd aim for another child if I let them get away, but Noir was here, so I should stop.

When I looked back while catching my breath, there was the figure of Noir looking at me dumbfoundedly.

Although I told her to close her eyes, from when did she see me?

"Noir, you are not injured, right?" (Reus)

"Y-yeah… I'm fine." (Noir)

Noir was somewhat cold, but as far as I could see, she didn't have any injuries.

Seeing this child safe, made me realize that I could finally protect someone.

I had been an escort at the request of the guild until now, but the escort subject was mostly protected either by Aniki or Nee-chan, so I went to the front and would be fine swinging my sword without worry.

For example, even if I was alone, I would concentrate solely on swinging the sword, while barely having any awareness of the subject as I was too absorbed in defeating the monsters.

Thus… this time was the first time that I protected someone.

She was someone that I needed to protect.

It was very difficult, but I was really happy that I could protect Noir without any problems.

This was the thing that Aniki always did… and this was the path that Aniki walked.

From the time I wanted to line up next to Aniki, I'd been chasing him all the while. I continued training every day, and learned swordsmanship from Jii-chan, but Aniki's back was still far away until this very day… and, for some reason, it looked hazy.

But now that I knew about the difficulties of protecting someone, and the joy of protecting them, I felt that I could clearly see that hazy back. The back that became distant after knowing the difficulties, but I was glad that I could clearly see my aim.

I tried to approach Noir, since she was looking here without any indication to move, but she took a step back to avoid me.

Yeah, it was understandable why she was avoiding me.

Anyhow, I haven't removed my transformation yet, and my whole body was bright red as a result of the wolves' blood. Even Aniki or Nee-chan would probably hate to be approached.

"This is bad. You're scared… right? I will not come any closer, but do not leave me. There may still be some monsters left." (Reus)

"N-no! You're wrong! You aren't… scary." (Noir)

Even if she said so, I knew Noir was scared since her legs were trembling, and her ears were drooping.

A cursed child is a man who transforms to something that looks like a wolf, which also looks like a monster. I thought Noir's reaction was normal, and that made me think again about how mature Aniki was.

"Let's leave this place before other monsters come. Come, follow me." (Reus)

"W-wait!" (Noir)

When I thought of why she would run while shouting, she grasped my hand regardless of it being wet with monster blood.

I immediately tried to separate my hand from her, because she would get dirty with blood, but she tightly grasped with both hands while shivering, so I couldn't shake her off.

"Hey, let go because there is blood on it." (Reus)

I asked her to separate from me, but she shook her head and didn't try to let go of my hand.

We walked as we were because it couldn't be helped, but since she was tightly holding it, there was no problem with our movement.

We didn't talk to each other. We just kept on walking and finally returned to the place where I was before rolling down. In a normal situation, I would immediately go back, but I could not, not in this situation, until I calmed my fighting mood.

Although the wounds done by the monsters were healed because of the resilience of the transformation, I felt pain from numerous parts of my body since I was forcing it to move.

Then, I thought about seeing Aniki and Reese-ane soon, and Noir let go of my hands when she noticed that my appearance returned to normal. When I looked at Noir, she was smiling at me while being surprised.

"Hmmm, the wolf Onii-chan was scary but… it was amazing, you were really cool!" (Noir)

I do not like that appearance so much. I could become strong, but I would see nothing but enemies because of the stimulation, and to make matters worse, I didn't want to be seen with scared eyes by those who I considered friends.

Noir was scared of me, but… she felt relieved about being rescued, especially when she put that smile on her face.

Looking at that smile, I thought that I really could keep protecting Noir.

I want to inform my current feelings to Aniki and Nee-chan soon.

◆ ◆ ◆

— Sirius —

"…You grew again, Reus." (Sirius)

I nodded in satisfaction, while I was on a high ground away from Reus.

I sensed Reus and Noir were in danger, and when I readied the long distance shooting condition, Reus was already surrounded by the Dyna Wolves.

I wanted to support them immediately, but I thought that it was a good opportunity to check Reus' ambiguous goal, so I put my magic into an [Idling] state and viewed their situation.

Whether Reus wanted to become strong in order to catch up to me or so he could protect those who were important… this was probably the time to make it clear.

Of course, if Noir wasn't being protected, I would give them my support, but Reus did a transformation that rarely took place in public.

Whenever Reus transforms, he becomes abnormally stimulated, and there was a high possibility of him not noticing Noir's existence, but he kept fighting without being drunk by the impulses, and he protected Noir from the monsters.

I thought it was overprotective, but I'm glad that those two were alright.

Honestly, I was planning to thin out the Dyna Wolves beforehand, but we took some time dealing with the other monsters. Hokuto and I also exterminated nearly fifty Dyna Wolves, but since this forest was close to the town, there was a possibility that they would attack the town when their numbers multiplied, so in addition to that fifty, we exterminated their nest.

That monster's characteristic was to swarm endlessly. There were almost a hundred wolves waiting in the discovered next, but at the same time when we exterminated them, Reus already encountered the enemy.

Nevertheless, Reus really did grow up.

Although he said many times that he yearned to be by my side, I thought that the impetus for him to become stronger was to protect his sister, Emilia.

However, as Emilia became stronger, she was no longer a target of protection, so his goal changed to being by my side. Of course, the feeling that he wanted to protect hadn't changed, even now, but his sister and I were strong and we almost didn't need his protection.

His battle style was mostly stepping forward and defeating the enemies, so he forgot the feeling of defending.

And without asking for anyone's help, he would see the person he wanted to protect for the first time, and he wouldn't know what they thought unless they were asked. But I think that something had definitely changed. I will not know until I hear what he thinks.

I will see him with an innocent look later, and listened to his honest feeling after things have calmed down.

…However, there were things need to be done before that.

"Five are running away… huh. Hokuto, I'm going to ride on your back." (Sirius)

"Woof!" (Hokuto)

Since I'd been keeping track of the presence of the Dyna Wolves that were escaping, I figured out where I would go.

Hokuto stood behind me after confirming their location, and I pointed my finger towards the Dyna Wolves that continued to escape while looking through my self-made telescope.

There were many obstacles in the forest. Furthermore, to aim for the wolves that were still running was a difficult technique, and the distance was already a few kilometers ahead…

"It's regrettable, but they are still within range." (Sirius)

It would be impossible in the previous life, but they were within the range for the current me.

If you are running away, you should run more in a zigzag motion in order to avoid being aimed at.

However, since it was impossible to snipe from a very long distance in this world, it would probably be unreasonable to be alerted.

I confirmed their figures that could be seen moving through the trees in an instant, and then, after calculating the moving distance of the enemies and the landing position of the bullet, I activated the long-range sniper magic, [Snipe].

In a moment… the head of the monster that I aimed exploded, and since the remaining wolves had stopped moving to watch for an attack, they had become easy targets.

It was pitiful to be killed without knowing, but this was the retribution for aiming at my disciples and their child.

I unconcernedly shot through the heads of the remaining monsters. I would use this measure later for other monsters.

“Disposal complete… Shall we return, Hokuto?”

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

Then, I got on Hokuto and returned to Emilia.

Thus, the large number of Dyna Wolves that inhabited in this forest was completely annihilated.

◆ ◆ ◆

Since Reus was matching Noir’s walk, Hokuto and I made a great detour in order to avoid them and returned to Emilia.

Since we returned earlier, Emilia and Noel were vigorously rushing at us. I was surprised with that threatening look for a moment but that was a secret.

“Welcome back, Sirius-sama! Are there any injuries?” (Emilia)

“Sirius-sama! How about Noir-chan’s and Reus-kun’s reactions!?” (Noel)

I somehow managed to calm them down. I told them that they were safe and heading back here, and then Reus and Noir showed up.

Noel and Dee immediately came out, but Noir hid behind Reus when she confirmed her parents' figures. It would be difficult to face them after yelling and fleeing like that.

But, Noel was unconcerned about that. She ran to quickly embrace Noir…

"Noir-chan! Reus-kun! You're safe… no, what on earth were you doing!?" (Noel)

"Aah… yeah, Noir and I are safe, Noel-nee. Anyway… look." (Reus)

As one would expect, she stopped when she saw the condition of the bloodstained Reus. After Reus explained about the monsters' blood stain, he put his hand on Noir's head and urged her to come out.

Noir took off the mantle she wore and stood in front of Noel, but she was looking downward. Then, she raised her face and met Noel…

"…Okaa-san" (Noir)

"Noir-chan!" (Noel)

At that moment, Noir was tightly embraced. Regardless of her desperate condition, Noir was embraced while shedding tears.

"…I'm… sorry. Okaa-san." (Noir)

"Yeah, I'm sorry, too." (Noel)

"…Sorry for calling you stupid, Okaa-san." (Noir)

"I don't mind that. So, don't go anywhere. If Noir-chan isn't here, Okaa-san…" (Noel)

They kept embracing each other while shedding tears, but… the situation had changed a bit. To be specific, Noir seemed to be suffering.

"Uhmm… Okaa-san? It hurts?" (Noir)

“You can’t! This is not because of me, this is punishment for troubling Sirius-sama!” (Noel)

“Nyaa! Help me, Otou-san!” (Noir)

…It wasn’t my imagination that the impression of the reunion had started to move in a strange direction.

As she kept holding Noir under the pretense of punishment, I thought of stopping her from being unreasonable, but Dee entered between them and caressed Noel’s head. Noel reluctantly released her daughter, and then, Noir hugged Dee to escaped from Noel.

It seemed like an everyday occurrence, after looking at Dee’s familiar hands.

“Noir, you’re not hurt?” (Dee)

“Yeah. That’s because Onii-chan protected me.” (Noir)

“Is that so? Reus, thank you.” (Dee)

“Haa!? That’s right! Reus-kun, thank you for helping Noir-chan.” (Noel)

“Hehe… I’m glad that I rescued her safely. Me too, thank you.” (Reus)

The two had strange expressions when Reus said thanks, but he immediately realized that his body was covered with blood and when he tried to pick a towel, Reese stopped him.

“Aah, can you wait a bit for the towel and give it to me? Reus, let me do that.” (Reese)

“I leave it to you, Reese-ane.” (Reus)

“Water… please. [Aqua Ring]” (Reese) *(TLN: The Japanese name for the spell is Water Purification)*

When Reese activated the spell, water started gathering around Reus and became a big sphere covering his whole body.

This spell is Reese's spell that reproduces an original idea of mine, it is a spell that covers an object with water that accelerates the healing process, treats wounds and removes stuck-on dirt. It is most suitable in this situation, since he is covered with blood.

The downside is that the whole body gets soaked and breathing is impossible. If she uses it without telling the other side, there is a possibility that they might drown if she uses it for a long time, so she has to be careful. Actually, if Reese doesn't include the healing part, she can uses it for attack, but she rarely uses this spell.

Since it is necessary to have a huge mana supply and fine control to use it, Reese is the only one who can do it, where the spirits can be seen.

"…Yes, you'll be cleaned soon. Release." (Reese)

And when Reese released her spell, Reus' body was soaked, but the blood was completely removed.

Reus also looked satisfied after checking his body. He shook his body and scattered the water around him. Then, he received a towel and wiped himself down.

"Huu… that's refreshing. Thank you, Reese-ane." (Reus)

"The outer wounds have healed, but do you feel pain anywhere else?" (Reese)

"Hmm, there is a somewhat discomfort feeling on my left arm, and my whole body is a bit sore, I think?" (Reus)

"Where is it? Show it to me." (Sirius)

Some people would try to hide their injuries, and they won't talked about it until there was an after effect later. Since I taught them to inform any pain or discomforts, Reus frankly told me and received a diagnosis.

I put my hand on Reus' head and checked for any abnormalities on his whole body with [Scan], but… other than muscle damaged due to movement that exceeded his limits, I was relieved that there was no fatal injury.

“…Hmm, there shouldn’t be any problems if you don’t move too strenuously. After I invoke a regenerative process, there will be no pain tomorrow. For today, I forbid you from swinging your sword.” (Sirius)

“Got it. Hey, Aniki. Today, it was my first time protecting someone I wanted to protect. It wasn’t because of Aniki’s instructions, but it was because of my resolve.” (Reus)

“Is that so? You did well, until you became like this.” (Sirius)

‘Next time, please be better so that you won’t be bathed with blood’… and that’s what I thought for a moment, but currently, I was pleased with Reus’ growth.

When I gently stroked his head, Reus seemed to be embarrassed.

“Hehe… But, it was hard to protect those who cannot fight. I realized how amazing Aniki is again.” (Reus)

“You’re right. It is really difficult to protect. Well, did you feel something?” (Sirius)

““It wasn’t clear, but I feel I could see something. Looking at Noir’s smile, and being thanked by Noel-nee and Dee-nii… it made me really happy. But, that is something that Aniki always does, and I only felt it once… that is what I thought.” (Reus)

I took my hand off Reus’ head, and he had a good smile while displaying teeth like a boy.

“My dream to catch up with Aniki still hasn’t changed, but I thought that I wanted to become stronger to protect someone important. From here on, please take care of me.” (Reus)

“It is difficult, you know? Unlike how you try to catch up with me, it is difficult to protect someone, unless you become many times stronger than now.” (Sirius)

“That is my aspiration!” (Reus)

Was that the answer Reus got from this situation?

On the path of catching up with me, the path of protecting someone had become clear and it felt like a midway stopping point. It wasn’t a big change, but it was a fact that there was a definite change.

If there are many paths, there is also the possibility of being unable to decide, but the possibilities will expand with that alone. No, rather, you should be greedy. Rather than just having strength and standing by my side, it would be better to become stronger and become a spare hand to save people. You probably can do that much with your potential, and let me continue to be your respectable goal worth pursuing.

“My first target is to defeat Lior-jiichan!” (Reus)

“Aah… yeah. Keep going for it until the end.” (Sirius)

He will keep progressing himself to become stronger, and I think that it should be a fight at the end.

◆ ◆ ◆

After calming Reus, who was boiling with determination, we discussed our future plans, but judging from Noir’s anxiety and Reus’ physical condition, we decided to go back to [Elena’s Dining Room] a bit earlier.

When we returned, Noir didn’t get on Hokuto. She was walking in the middle of Noel and Dee with their hands connected.

A scene where the parents and their child were holding their hands together and laughing with each other was a scene of happiness. The disciples were looking and smiling at such a scene.

“Noir, she looks happy.” (Emilia)

“Reus also did his best. That sight is happening because of your protection.” (Sirius)

“After all, the parents and child are good. I’m a bit… jealous.” (Emilia)

Since we didn’t have parents anymore, it was impossible to link hands with our parents like Noir. Although Reese has a father, she had no mother, so it was impossible for her to link hands together with her parents.

Reus seemed purely happy, but Emilia and Reese were envying while smiling.

I didn’t understand their feelings, but it was good if our way of thinking changed a little bit.

“It may be impossible to be in Noir’s position, but it is possible to become like Noel, you know?” (Sirius)

“”Eh!?”” (Emilia/Reese)

“I don’t mind if it’s a boy or girl, but if it is Emilia’s and Reese’s child, they will look cute either way.” (Sirius)

“Uhmm… Sirius-sama? Is that… could it be…” (Emilia)

“Err… the father is…” (Reese)

“Well… someday, I guess?” (Sirius)

When I looked over my shoulder, Emilia and Reese stood still with reddened faces, but I continued walking as if I didn’t see them.

When those two immediately caught up, Emilia was overcome with emotion, and held my left arm, while Reese was smiling as she quietly held the other arm.

We couldn’t be like Noel’s family right now, but it was good since they were happy.

While looking at Reus, who walked ahead, and Hokuto, who was at the rear, I was enjoying the warmth of the important existences I felt from both sides.

◆ ◆ ◆

When we returned, what we saw was the scene of carnage in [Elena’s Dining Room].

The rumors of Donburi served at noon seemed to have spread all over the town, and nearly twice as many customers were rushing in. Reus, who fought earlier, was forced to rest, while we made a charge to the dining room, which had turned into a ‘bloodbath’. By the way, Noel left to look after Noir.

Today, Noel’s brother and sisters were working, and when we participated, the number of people was too many, compared to the size of the store. After we came back, the progress of the dining room became smooth.

The business ended with no particular problems. Dee tried to pay his brother- and sister-in-laws when they were about to go home, but they said they didn't want it because he was family. They were a good family.

Since Dee didn't feel good when he received their help without giving anything back, I gave them a souvenir of my new homemade confection that I made during break-time.

And, at present… Noir and I were sitting opposite of each other at a table inside the store.

Reus was sitting on her side, and since he said he won't talk as much as possible, he sat while binding his mouth in a straight line.

This situation was created by Reus. He persuaded Noir back in the forest, and suggested to her to tell her real feelings to me. Although, I understood to a certain extent when I heard from Reus, I would like to praise his nice assistance, because it was easier to correspond to the side who mentioned their real feelings.

Noel and Dee were looking secretly, but Noir didn't seem to realize because they were diligently hiding.

Since we got back to the dining room, Noir had time to be alone with Noel. It appeared that they were talking a lot during that time, and I couldn't feel the hostility that was shown in Noir's eyes from before. However, she seemed to be wondering about how to make the first move, and the silent time continued awhile between us.

Still, Reus and I patiently waited, and the word that finally came out from Noir's mouth was…

"Err… Sirius…-sama?" (Noir)

"What is it?" (Sirius)

"I-I'm sorry." (Noir)

It was an apology to me.

I didn't think that she did something that made me demand an apology, but I won't be able to understand if she didn't clearly say it. It was because I should understand what that apology was for.

"Aah, I don't mind it because I'm not angry at all. Anyway, can you tell me why you are apologizing?" (Sirius)

"Uhmm… I said… that Sirius-sama's dishes weren't tasty even when I ate them. I also said… not to take my Otou-san and Okaa-san away, and I said nothing when I got some desserts…" (Noir)

"Haha, didn't you say it was unpleasant and not delicious? But, what Noir said wasn't a mistake, right?" (Sirius)

"There is no such thing! It was really… delicious." (Noir)

"Thank you. However, what I want to say is, no matter how delicious the meals or sweets that I make are, I can't ever win against Dee." (Sirius)

"Eh?" (Noir)

Yes… no matter how I struggle, I can't win against Dee.

Noir probably didn't think that I would say this. While she was looking at me with a confused expression, I placed the dessert that I had prepared in front of Noir.

"Is this… a dessert?" (Noir)

"That's right. Yes, I made this and it is called Mont Blanc. Let alone Noel and Dee, Reus also hasn't tasted this yet. Here, eat it." (Sirius)

To be precise, it was a dessert made with nuts similar to the taste of chestnuts, but since the taste and appearance were exactly the same, it was named Mont Blanc.

Reus unintentionally gulped his saliva, and… I could hear a small voice of Reese saying "So good." from the other side of the door when Noir took a bite of the Mont Blanc. At that moment, Noir had glittering eyes while being surprised and finished eating it in no time.

"How was it?" (Sirius)

“Yes! It was very delicious!” (Noir)

“Really? You’re saying it because you’re having it for the first time.” (Sirius)

Noir looked down, seemingly embarrassed when I smiled at her, but she immediately looked up and smiled at me.

“I will teach Dee later, so you can have it someday. And then, it will become the most delicious Mont Blanc.” (Sirius)

“Eh? This is also tasty, isn’t it?” (Noir)

“No, the Mont Blanc that Dee will make is the most delicious. He will make everything just for you.” (Sirius)

“Aah…” (Noir)

“Listen to me, Noir. I think that Noel, Dee, and Noir are my lovable family. But, no matter how Noir likes me, I can’t win against the love Noel and Dee have for you.” (Sirius)

After telling Reus to sit next to me, and calling Noel and Dee, who were hiding, they sat on both sides of Noir and were looking at me with earnest expressions. As I expected of Noel, she properly read the mood.

Noir was confused with the sudden development, but she became calm when Noel gently stroked her head.

“Well, shall I ask Dee? Will you be able to win against me, for Noir’s sake?” (Sirius)

“Yes, I’m sorry, but I will never give up on that. It is because I love Noir.” (Dee)

“No! I love Noir more! When it comes to Noir-chan, I will absolutely… not lose to Sirius-sama!” (Noel)

Tears began to emerge in Noir’s eyes, as she watched her parents, who were pounding the table with their hands at me.

Thus, the love of her parents was displayed before her, and finally Noir seemed to realize her misunderstanding. Reus, who was next to me, was smiling until his teeth were seen and he called for Noir.

“How about it, Noir? Was it like I said?” (Reus)

“Yeah! Thanks, Onii-… Reus-sama!” (Noir)

“Ouu!… Eh?” (Reus)

Reus tilted his head at the last word uttered by Noir, and I also had a similar feeling. What did she just call Reus, if I’m not mistaken?

Noel, who noticed our wondering looks, explained to us with a raised finger.

“Aah, Reus-kun. I discussed this with Noir-chan a little while ago, and she has decided to become Reus’ attendant in the future.” (Noel)

“Eh? Not Aniki… but me?” (Reus)

“Yeah. Noir-chan is going to train herself to become a good attendant, and she wants to become stronger, so that she won’t lose to Reus-kun.” (Noel)

Reus’ movements had completely stopped.

Yeah, I could understand his feelings. He rescued her until he was bathed in blood, but to think that she would become a bride, or something… was a totally unexpected matter. Was it because she was raised by her parents, who were attendants?

“Err, Noel-nee. Wasn’t the plan for Noir to become Aniki’s attendant?” (Reus)

“Yes… I was really thinking that, but since Reus-kun is Sirius-sama’s attendant, it shouldn’t be a problem. Most importantly, Noir-chan is really motivated.” (Noel)

“Yeah! I will absolutely become Reus-sama’s attendant! And then, I will cook delicious meals!” (Noir)

“O-ouu!?” (Reus)

Hohou, she understood Reus' personality well, that this fellow valued appetite more than appearance. It was a the correct choice to attack from there.

Noel continued explaining as she gently persuaded Reus, who was hanging his head with a confused look.

"Well, Reus. You don't have to worry too much now. It is alright for Reus-kun to think about having Noir-chan as an attendant when you both have already grown up in the future."

"I-is that so?" (Reus)

"Yes. I don't know how many years it will be, and there is a chance that the feeling will change. It is fine if you remember it for a bit… alright?" (Noel)

"A-aniki… what should I do?" (Reus)

Reus asked me for help, but since I showed an expression of 'It is your problem, deal with it', Reus gave up and nodded after a while.

…He was checkmated.

With this, as long as Noir didn't changed her mind, it was decided that she would become an attendant. It was unlikely for Reus to coldly deal with a child who yearned for her benefactor.

'My condolences'… that was what I wanted to say, but since this could be an impetus for Reus to notice the opposite sex, I decided to cheer for him.

As a child, Noir's feelings might not be anything more than longing, but there is enough possibility that her feelings will change into love. Depending on Reus' situation in the future, she could also choose to get married.

When I was pondering about Reus' future plans, Dee was glaring… No, he was watching Reus with his usual expression. He slowly extended his hand and asked for a handshake.

"… Reus." (Dee)

"O-ouu! What is it, Dee-nii?" (Reus)

“Noir… take care of her.” (Dee)

“Yeah… but, Aniki? Somehow, I am scared. And, my hand hurts so much…” (Reus)

Even if the other side was Reus, who he treated as a younger brother, he seemed reluctant when it came to his daughter. It looked like there were amazing conflicts within Dee, the mouth was laughing, but he was probably annoyed since he put more strength into the handshake than necessary.

Incidentally, a few days before we left Elysion, Reese’s father, Cardeas and her sister, Lifell-hime, asked me for a handshake and to take care of Reese. At that time, Cardeas shook my hand as if he wanted to crush it, but I just gave up and let him do it. And, there were also times when I was praised by Lifell-hime because of how well I did while dealing with her father.

What I want to say is that a father is a troublesome being in various ways.

“Dear, I understand your feelings, but didn’t I say that you don’t have to worry, since it’s Reus-kun?” (Noel)

“Aah, I thought that I would hand her over to some suspicious guy, but when it becomes real…”

“Otou-san, please teach me how to cook. I want to cook as delicious as Otou-san, and have Reus-sama eat it.” (Noir)

“…Alright.” (Dee)

Parental conflicts seemed like dust in front of their beloved daughter. Dee was somehow able to digest a lot of things and he acknowledged it.

Thus, the matter about Noir and I passing each other had been solved, but since she looked away when our eyes met, there seemed to be a long time before we’ll be able to get along with each other.

But, we just have to compromise, since I have already come here. It won’t be long before I can enjoy being good friends with Noir.

◆ ◆ ◆

I called Emilia and Reese, who were hiding and looking like Noel, and when everyone gathered, Noel was looking at me with an excited face.

“By the way, Sirius-sama. The Mont Blanc that Noir ate earlier is…” (Noel)

“I knew it. Don’t worry, I have made enough for everyone. Emilia.” (Sirius)

“Yes! I’m here.” (Emilia)

Emilia immediately brought it on a tray and distributed it for everyone on the table.

Although there was a piece for each person, I instructed to prepare two in front of Reus, and prepared another for Noir, who ate it earlier. Apart from Reus, Noir was growing up and there was no problem if she ate two.

“Aniki, there are two in front of me, but… can I eat them?” (Reus)

“Yes, you did the best this time. Do not hesitate to eat them because they are something like a reward.” (Sirius)

“Hehe… yay!” (Reus)

Noel and Reese were enviously looking at Reus, who was pleased, but they forget about it and was engrossed when they ate a mouthful of Mont Blanc.

“Its sweetness is slightly different compared to the shortcake and cheesecake, but it is really delicious.” (Reese)

“The desserts made by Aniki are the best after all!” (Reus)

“Haa… there is such desserts too, huh. It’s delicious…” (Noel)

“The way of using this nut… can probably be used for other cuisines.” (Dee)

“Si-sirius-sama! One more, can I have one more, please? This isn’t enough for me!” (Noel)

“I only made this much. Be patient.” (Sirius)

Apparently, Mont Blanc seemed to be Noel's most favorite dessert. When I thought of giving mine to her, since she normally wanted more helpings with unprecedented vigor in the past, Noir scooped hers and gave it to Noel.

"Here you go, Okaa-san. I will give you some." (Noir)

"N-noir-chan. Okaa-san's tears are coming out because of your kindness." (Noel)

I thought that it should be the other way around, but since it was a pleasant scene, I guessed this was alright. It could be said that Noel's face was loosened to the extent of being the best, after being made to eat by her beloved daughter.

Noir started eating the rest while watching her mother's face, and she was smiling at Noel.

"This is delicious, Okaa-san." (Noir)

"Yes, it is delicious. Hey Noir, isn't Sirius-sama also amazing?" (Noel)

"Yeah, Okaa-san was right. Sirius-sama… is amazing!" (Noir)

Listening to Noir's words uttered from the bottom of the heart, I was satisfied because I was finally acknowledged by this girl.

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 1

(Author: This was included in the beginning of the writing, but since it was likely to destroy the mood, this part was omitted. The place was thought when Emilia and Reese were enviously looking at Noel's family, and after they were overcome by emotion because of Sirius words.)

When I was walking while enjoying the warmth of Emilia and Reese, Reus, who was walking ahead, asked me while watching Noir.

"Say Aniki, what do you think will happen to my child?" (Reus)

"What!? Did you want a child?" (Sirius)

“I didn’t mean that in particular, but I think it would be fine if my child could hold a sword or learn magic. Aah, it has been decided that the child will become Aniki’s attendant, of course.” (Reus)

“…That is up to you. You don’t have any partner in the first place, anyway. Do you know how to have a child?” (Sirius)

“Eh? Of course, I remember. If you do a special move on the bed… Ouch!?” (Reus)

The two sisters hitting his head was a natural consequence when the good mood was spontaneously hindered. It became a moment which Reus couldn’t raise his head more and more.

Since he had little interest in the opposite sex, I indirectly taught him, but… apparently, it was a failure.

It was a wonderful year and I decided that I should educate him by getting straight to the point soon.

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 2

(Author: There was typo earlier when Reese used [Aqua Ring] on Reus.)

Present

“Aah, can you wait a bit for the towel and give it to me? Reus, let me do that.” (Reese)

Former

“Aah, can you wait a bit for the towel and give it to me? Reus, hold your breath for as long as possible.” (Reese)

“Reese-ane!?” (Reus)

Chapter 67
As a Parent, As an Attendant

“Look, it’s here.” (Sirius)

“Nyaa!” (Noir)

It’s a few days after Noir declared that she wanted to become Reus’ attendant.

After today’s business was over, I left the cleaning up to Dee, and returned to the living room, which was the living space of the shop. And then, I played with Noir.

There are plenty of ways to be friends when the hostility against me has disappeared. I was able to be friends with her by luring with foods and talking about Reus, until I could play with Noir.

“Alright, this time it’s here.” (Sirius)

“Nyaa!” (Noir)

“Sirius-san…” (Reese)

“What is it?” (Sirius)

“That… I think that is, somehow, strange or is it my imagination?” (Reese)

I was playing with Noir by waving a green foxtail, but why did you say it was strange? Noir was having so much fun trying to catch the tip of the green foxtail.

“But Reese-ane, Noir seems to enjoy this a lot, so isn’t it good?” (Reus)

“Looking at the cute Noir-chan makes me want to play with Sirius-sama, how envious I am.” (Emilia)

“It’s not that I don’t understand the feeling, but I feel that something’s different…” (Reese)

It doesn't require a lot of running, but for the siblings, they think it's similar to Frisbee playing.

While we were playing, and getting use to this new toy, Noel and Dee appeared.

"Sirius-sama, can we have a talk… eh? Oh you Noir-chan, I'm glad you're playing with Sirius-sama." (Noel)

"Yeah, I don't understand why, but it is really fun! Okaa-san, do you want to play, too?" (Noir)

"I also want to play, but before that, I have important things to talk about, so later. A talk… between Sirius-sama… and us…" (Noel)

She was speaking like an adult, when listening to her words; but, unfortunately, Noel's eyes were nailed to the ball that I was rolling. Since she was continuously keeping track of it for a while, so when I rolled it over Noel's feet… her instincts went beyond reason.

"Nyaa!" (Noir)

"Noir-chan! It's here!" (Noel)

It became a heartwarming scene where a mother and her daughter were happily kittened on the ball together.

Well… as the mood got better, I thought about getting to the point.

"Sirius-sama. I have something important to discuss… but would it be better to have that later?" (Noel)

"No, it's fine now, so just say it. The thing is we were considering to go on a trip soon." (Sirius)

""Eh!?"" (Noel/Noir)

Dee had somehow realized it, but Noel and Noir were surprised to the point that they stopped playing with the ball. Leaving the ball, Noel came close to me with sorrowful eyes.

“It hasn’t been half a month, right!? Although you made a friend with Noir after great pains, please stay a little bit more.” (Noel)

“I’m not in a hurry, but I feel like I can’t leave if it’s too long. I want you to understand that.” (Sirius)

“That’s… right. It is Sirius-sama’s dream to travel around the world…” (Noel)

Noel seemed to be convinced when she said it with such a serious expression.

Noel thought of me as family, and because of that, she wanted to stay together with me until the end. However, when Noel remembered the things I wanted to do, she realized that she shouldn’t become a hindrance.

Anyhow, rather than Noel, the child, Noir was not able to understand. Although she was young, she was aware about farewells. She ran and jumped into Reus’ chest while crying. At that moment, let’s not see that Dee’s eyebrows were moving slightly.

“Reus-sama… are you going to leave?” (Noir)

“It’s not going to happen soon, but yeah.” (Reus)

“I don’t want it. It is difficult to be an attendant… but I don’t want you to leave.” (Noir)

“I’m sorry. I am Aniki’s disciple and attendant, and I never thought about separating from him.” (Reus)

“Auu…” (Noir)

Noir buried her face into Reus’ chest as she continued to cry, but after a while, she fell asleep with a quiet sleeping breath. The gloomy mood had become slightly better with the cuteness of her sleeping face.

“I’m sorry, Reus-kun. I will properly persuade Noir-chan later.” (Noel)

“I leave it to you, Noel-nee. But you know, I understand Noir’s pain. If I separated from Aniki… I just do not want to imagine it.” (Reus)

“I think I also can’t stand it. Sirius-sama, please don’t disappear as you please.” (Emilia)

“As long as you guys do not want to leave, I have no plans to leave on my own.” (Sirius)

The siblings were relieved at those words. Well, I had declared before, in the past, that I won’t leave them until I died.

Even if I was to disappear, somehow, I feel that the siblings were likely to find me, no matter what. With the sister who’s abnormally sensitive to my odor, and combined with the abnormally sharp intuition of the brother, wouldn’t they easily find me? On the contrary, she also said not to run away.

Dee was sadly staring at me after hearing about us parting, but he nodded with a serious look. Yeah, as a backbone of the family, you can’t show a depressed appearance.

“Sirius-sama, please feel free to do whatever you want. While protecting Noel and the rest, I am looking forward to seeing you again.” (Dee)

“Yes, we will come back again. Noir will grow big at that time, so I am expecting her to be a splendid attendant.” (Sirius)

“Yes! I will bring her up so that she won’t be an embarrassment, no matter where she goes, so please look forward to it.” (Noel)

After that, we continued the discussion for a while and we decided to begin our trip in five days.

Honestly, I was ready to go on a trip at anytime. It’s possible to depart in a day, if we took the carriage we left at the Galgan Company, but there was a reason for doing it on the fifth day.

They were surprised, as if they were caught off guard, when I told them that we won’t leave until I completed that, but they were pleased about the matter.

I started preparing for the upcoming arrangement, while watching Noir rest peacefully.

◆ ◆ ◆

“Fuuhh… Is it something like that?” (Noel)

Two days have passed since then, and we were working in the kitchen.

There was an armful of iron plates in front of us, and I was in the middle of drawing magic formations on the plates.

“Dee-nii, I will take this old shelf outside.” (Reus)

“Please. Alad, hold those cooking wares.” (Dee)

“Understood. Reus, I will help since it’s heavy… Eh, with one hand!?” (Alad)

“I will start cleaning after the place has become less crowded.” (Emilia)

[Elena’s Dining Room] was closed for today, and a large renovation work was done in the kitchen.

There were no fatal defects since it was built a few years ago, but I thought about doing the refurbishment in order to reduce Dee’s burden.

As for me, who had seen restaurants in the previous world, I found some unnecessary parts and inefficiencies when I was helping in the kitchens of this world. Then, I gathered my notes together and informed Dee, and suggested to remodel the kitchen.

Actually, Dee himself seemed to worry about it, but it took time and money to do the construction. Plus, he said he gave up because a large amount of gold coins were necessary, even with just the specialized magic formation and stoves.

If that was the case, I planned to remodel it with our own hands. Far from ordinary, since I specialized in drawing magic formations and had Reus taking charge of the physical labor, I thought it could be done in a day if it was only the kitchen.

Thus, the owner, Dee, gave his permission and the remodeling of [Elena’s Dining Room] began.

While being overseen by Dee, Reus and Alad took the big things outside, Emilia was entrusted with cleaning and other chores, while Reese and the other women went out to buy minor items.

In the meantime, a woman with a chisel and a hammer was talking to me as I was drawing the magic formation on a plate outside the shop.

“Sirius-kun, I’ve made it.” (Stella)

“Aah, good work. You’ve made it fast.” (Sirius)

“Since I live on this, I would be embarrassed if I didn’t finish the ordered projects quickly.” (Stella)

I was worried to leave the remodeling to amateurs, so Stella, who was Noel’s mother and worked in the building industry, had helped me this time.

Even though she was busy with work, she gave an immediate reply when I went to consult with her. She said it was natural to help with her daughter and her son-in-law’s store. She was a very reliable being as she came and laughed heartily.

I asked her to make the ‘pillar’ of the kitchen, which was the stove, and she seemed to have made it in only few hours.

I was guided by Stella-san to see the sculpture of a big stone and examine the stove, and it seemed that there were no problems, as long as I could see the balance of the stove body and its height.

“As what you had ordered, I made it higher than before and made a groove… So, what do you think?” (Stella)

“It’s perfect. That’s just what I wanted.” (Sirius)

She had properly made it according to my instructions, and it was finished without any complaints.

In order to arrange it immediately, I called Reus, who had finished carrying the shelves outside.

“Reus, come here. Bring this to the kitchen.” (Sirius)

“Got it, Aniki. One, two…!” (Reus)

I thought the weight of the stove was probably several hundreds of kilograms, so Reus and I activated [Boost] and carried it.

After we finished arranging it, I brought the iron plate that was drawn with my magic formation and fitted it into the groove.

The stove that I made this time didn’t only have the traditional functions, but also an improved heating magic formation that I learned in the school and tried to add some things that were similar to the electric stove that was in my previous life. This wasn’t for heating, but for keeping the warmth of the pre-made dishes.

It’ll absorb enough mana in the atmosphere to keep a warm temperature; however, when it comes to the amount of heat used for cooking, the amount of mana needed is intense and it’s useless unless you keep supplying mana. Besides me, if an ordinary person used it, they wouldn’t last for a single day.

In case the magic stove doesn’t work like an electric stove, because the magic formation has deteriorated and became unusable, I made it a reusable cartridge-type so that the plate with the magic formation drawn on it can be replaced.

Of course, I sold this technology and magic formation to the Galgan Company, so the magical cooking stoves and replacement plates would be on sale. In this regard, I discussed it with the Galgan Company along with Dee, and it was decided that this store would be the pilot store that will use the magic stove. Since I was receiving some money, more or less, I made some fine adjustments to the furnishings of the store.

After that, I increased the base of the fire so that they can use a pot at the same time, and reproduced the convenient mechanisms seen in my previous life’s restaurants. Therefore, it should be much more efficient than yesterday’s kitchen.

When Reus and I finished arranging the stoves together, Emilia immediately came and started cleaning up. Since they planned to use the full scale of it tomorrow, I arranged it so that it can be use at anytime.

Stella-san was impressed when she looked at us.

“Hmmm… I thought it would take two or three days at the earliest, but it would seem to have been completed in a day. I’d like to make my kids learn the strength and the skills of your hands.” (Stella)

Stella-san muttered while watching Alad, who was exhausted by the physical labor, with a glance. I think that’s normal, because we were abnormal.

“Hehe, I can’t be called Aniki’s disciple if I can’t do this much.” (Reus)

“In my opinion, Stella-san is the amazing one.” (Sirius)

“Hahaha, what are you talking about to an Obaa-san who gave her job to the juniors? Ah, can you hold this?” (Stella)

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

No, this person was really amazing. She made the shelves attach to the wall, and that contributed to the factor of getting assistance from Hokuto, who had gathered awe and reverence.

Since Hokuto skillfully used his forefoot to hold the board, an indescribable scene was displayed.

Meanwhile, Emilia had finished cleaning up, and I was called by Dee, who was testing the ease of use of the new stove, and he told me his impressions.

“This is good. Compared to the regular stove, this one has more uniform fire distribution and the heat adjustments have become easier.” (Dee)

“There seems to be no problems. Shall I make lunch for everyone at once?” (Sirius)

“That’s right. I will prepare the ingredients right away.” (Dee)

We’d been working throughout the morning, so it was good to prepare our lunch soon.

I began preparing our lunch together with Dee, and the ladies, who went out shopping a while ago, came back.

“I’m back.” (Noel)

“Welcome back. Did you get all the necessary stuff?” (Sirius)

“All good, Sirius-sama! Ah, is that the new stove? Besides, this smell… is it a curry!?” (Noel)

“Ooh, I’ve prepared the sweet one for Noir. I will finish it soon, so wash your hands and wait.” (Sirius)

“Yeay!” (Noir)

Since Noir obediently replied to my words, she was also someone I wanted to entertain. I proceeded with the preparation while looking at the mother and daughter who went to wash their hands, without knowing which one was the child.

While stewing the curry, as I was making toppings, such as small cutlets and hamburgers, Dee was watching me with a wondering look.

“Sirius-sama. Although it is a curry, is it necessary to make a variety?” (Dee)

“No, these are for the toppings. Before you prepare the curry, take each person’s request and put it on their curry.” (Sirius)

“I see, that is to meet the customer’s request, isn’t it?” (Dee)

“Besides, it might be a good idea to make a survey, such as a day for curry dishes, or putting the best selling dishes on the regular menu.” (Sirius)

“…I’m learning something.” (Dee)

I think [Elena’s Dining Room] will still prosper even if he doesn’t do that, but… there is no loss in teaching him various surprise methods. Dee nodded with the good ideas, and he took hurried notes.

Originally, I started thinking that it would be lonely with only curry, but since he was unusually absorbed in it, I just rode along with him.

I made too much… and I didn’t think about it at all. Anyway, there were three who ate a lot in the house. If I’m going to take a request, there will be no difference if I take it altogether.

Then, it was time for lunch, and I asked everyone that was sitting at a table in the dining room for their requests…

“Cheese and eggs, please.” (Emilia)

“Uhmm… Karaage!” (Noir)

“””Everything!””” (Reus/Reese/Noel)

…Hey.

I prepared for the curry while bitterly smiling at the three people, Reus, Reese and Noel, who raised their hands as if breaking through the sky

All of them were lined up on the table, and Stella-san was watching with an astonished look when she saw Noel, who began eating pleasantly with the full volume of curry.

“Noel… can you really eat it? You had a couple pieces of bread this morning.” (Stella)

“I am fine if it is this much, Okaa-san. Since Sirius-sama and your dishes are delicious, I will eat as much as possible.” (Noel)

“Yeah! And Obaa-chan too, right?” (Noir)

“Hahaha, Noir is right. It is tasty.” (Stella)

Stella-san gently brushed her granddaughter’s head with narrowed eyes. But when she looked at Noel, her astonished look returned.

“It is fine for Noir, since she is a child, but aren’t you overeating? You’ll get fat, you know?” (Stella)

“Eh!?” (Noel)

Noel’s movements stopped right at that moment, but the spoon started moving again, probably because she couldn’t resist the charm of the curry.

Stella-san shook her head without saying anything more, but Dee was answering with a firm look.

“It is alright, Stella-san. Even if she is fat, Noel is still Noel.” (Dee)

“Dear… Are you assuming that I will get fat?” (Noel)

“…If you continue as is, I think that is probable.” (Dee)

“Gafuuu! T-this is bad. But, I can’t stop when it is tasty! What should I do, Sirius-sama!? (Noel)

“Hey, do you think I’ll be the one in trouble?” (Sirius)

Well, it was because I cooked the dishes, and since I felt like giving some ideas, let’s just go along with it.

“Were you begin eating a lot recently? And how much did you eat previously, Noel?” (Sirius)

“Previous, it was enough with a plate.” (Noel)

“Hmmm… you have already eaten two plates, but are you going to eat more?” (Sirius)

“Yes! Although this is delicious, it can’t be helped since I am hungry.” (Noel)

An ordinary person would have enough if they put all of the toppings on their dishes. Even though the inhabitants of this world have huge meal consumptions, it seems to be abnormal when it is increased to nearly twice as much as before.

Dee was probably still worried, and I was the only one hearing him when he slowly muttered.

“Sirius-sama, maybe Noel is sick?” (Dee)

“There are two people who eat a lot in the vicinity, so I see nothing but someone who eats a lot…” (Sirius)

The standards went out of order when looking at how much Reus and Reese ate. In the first place, is there any sickness that makes you eat a lot?

I remembered the sickness, but I haven't done any physical examinations on Noel and the others since I came here. Since they were a healthy family who appeared had no history of illnesses, I just checked with [Scan] after meeting them.

Dee appeared to be worried, so let's do a thorough [Scan] this time.

"Noel, I will check to see whether there is an abnormality or not, so do not move for a bit." (Sirius)

"Eh, there are no painful places, but go ahead. Oh, I'd like to ask for another helping in the meantime." (Noel)

"Dee-nii, I want more." (Reus)

"Dee-san, another please." (Reese)

"Wait a sec." (Dee)

While Dee prepared the helpings for the gluttons in another place, I focused my senses and invoked [Scan]

A simple [Scan], which I normally do, is like viewing the entirety, the one that I'm using this time will thoroughly examine the cells of the internal organs, and from the head to the toes.

As I spread a serious atmosphere, everyone stopped eating and kept watching breathlessly. Although they were looking at me, there were two people who didn't stop their eating hands… but I didn't mind.

"…I see." (Sirius)

"Uhmm… why are you making such a serious face?" (Noel)

"You don't have to worry because it is not a sickness. Rather than saying you are hungry, didn't you happen to eat a lot recently?" (Sirius)

"That's right. But, it is because Sirius-sama's dishes are tasty." (Noel)

What came to me was that, since I had compared the present conditions with the knowledge of a book that I checked in the past… it seems that there was no mistake.

The situations where a beastkin's meal consumption increases varied, but from the reaction that I felt from Noel's stomach, she was…

"Congratulation." (Sirius)

"Fuee!? (Noel)

"Si-sirius-sama? Could that be…" (Dee)

"Yes, there is a new life in Noel's stomach. Congratulations Noel, and Dee. That is your second child." (Sirius)

She probably had it even before we came or stayed, and she didn't notice it since it was in the early stages. Besides, since she felt nostalgic about my dish, she misunderstood the reason why she ate a lot.

The two, who listened to the matter of the new baby, hardened for a while. Instead of them, the family member, Nokia, Emilia and the rest were reacting first.

"Congratulations, Onee-chan. Dee-san. There is a new family member." (Emilia)

"That's great, Noel-nee! Dee-nii! Today is a celebration!" (Reus)

"Congratulations, Noel-san, Dee-san. Haa… I am somehow seeing an amazing situation." (Reese)

"Congratulations, Aneki! That's really great, Dee-san!" (Alad)

"Hey, are you listening, Nee-chan!? It's the second one, you know. The second one!" (Nokia)

"I-I'm listening. Err… is it true?" (Noel)

She looked at me as if she couldn't believe it, but I nodded and made a smile.

Whether Dee finally could understand the reality, he suddenly lifted Noel up and spun around.

"Yeay… that's great Noel! You did well!" (Dee)

“Wawaa!? Oh, you… my dear. Yeah… I did it!” (Noel)

It was unusual to see Dee in a frenzy-like appearance until now, but he was very happy.

He was spinning around for a while until he noticed that it became a burden to Noel, so he hurriedly put her down. Since she was still in the early stages before her body became slumped, it was not necessary to be impatient.

He explained to Noir, who vaguely understood what was going on, while still embracing Noel.

“Okaa-san will give birth to Noir-chans’s brother or sister. In short, Noir-chan will become an Onee-chan.” (Dee)

“Onee-chan… I am an Onee-chan!?” (Noir)

“Yeah! Banzai!” (Noel)

“Banzai!” (Noir)

Noir had somehow understood it, so she and Noel happily raised their hands together.

They were in high spirits for a while and when it became calm, Noel returned to her seat as if she remembered it, and began eating another helping of curry with a refreshed feeling.

I wanted to be amazed at her, who could start eating immediately while having a child, but she had sufficient reason.

When a human carries a child, it is common that the eating habits changed and their physical condition deteriorates, but in the case of beastkin, they will eat anyway.

It is almost unrelated to morning sickness, and their physical condition getting poor during pregnancy is much lighter compared to a human’s. Anyway, it seems they are afflicted with hunger, but all the nutrition they eat almost all flows to the child.

Whether that will be good for each person, neither will change the hardship.

“I missed Sirius-sama’s dishes and I was wondering why the amount of meals increased more than usual. When I think about it carefully, it was a situation similar to before.” (Noel)

“Well, since the symptoms are coming out, you will eventually notice it in a few days even if you don’t want it. Whatever it is, eat without hesitation.” (Sirius)

“Yes! I am really happy, with my husband and my master who makes delicious meals.” (Noel)

There seems to be quite a lot of beastkin who are having premature babies due to insufficient nutrition, but looking at Noir, there was no need to worry about that. She was evidence that Dee was working hard.

He has to think about balancing the volume and nutrition for the meals in the future. When I was thinking about teaching Dee about meals with high nutrition, Stella-san, who didn’t say anything, approached Noel and put her hand on Noel’s head.

“Goodness… Although the second child will be born, you will not change…” (Stella)

“Excuse me! I have changed! After giving birth to Noir, don’t you notice that I am gleaming and overflowing with maternal instinct?” (Noel)

“From my point of view, it’s still too early. Oh well… Congratulations, Noel. Since it’s going to be hard when the number increases, it is likely that I will have more opportunities to come here.” (Stella)

“Aah, I saw Okaa-san’s motive. If you want to see your grandchild’s face, it is fine to just come see it unreservedly. You’re still trying to pretend in front of me, huh.” (Noel)

“Don’t you get carried away.” (Stella)

She hit Noel with an exasperated expression, but the mother’s desire that firmly wish for her child’s happiness was displayed in her eyes. Regardless of the way they communicated, I think that they had a good mother-and-daughter relationship by looking at those two who were laughing.

Stella-san was delighted even though she was countered by Noel, but she grumbled after looking sideways at the rest of her children.

“Haaa… for this foolish girl to bear a second child, what have you guys been doing down there? When will you show me grandchildren?” (Stella)

“Ooh, I have decided to be with cooking.” (Alad)

“…I have nothing to say, Okaa-san.” (Nokia)

Although Alad said he chose cooking, Noel told me the truth that he was secretly dating a girl in the town.

It seemed Nokia was longing for Dee, but she had given up after looking how he was being lovey-dovey with Noel. Since then, she had been pursuing an ideal man for herself.

Nonetheless, she will have meetings if she works as a waitress, and I’m sure she will be able to meet her ideal man one day… maybe.

“Now now, Nokia-chan is cute, so she absolutely can meet a good man.” (Noel)

“Kuhh! I hate that smile on your whole face! I will definitely be happier than Onee-chan!” (Nokia)

“Fufufu, I wonder if you can win over Onee-chan’s happiness? Well then, I want another helping for the baby.” (Noel)

“Me too, another please.” (Reese)

“I also won’t lose. I want more!” (Reus)

“This not a match.” (Sirius)

I noticed Dee’s expression had stiffened when I served helpings while being astounded with Reus’ words.

Could it be that, he was anxious like when we had parted in Almest? When I wondered whether I should deliver the punch, I met Dee’s eyes.

“Is there anything on my face?” (Dee)

“No… I think you will have more difficulties from now on. Are you ready for it, Dee?” (Sirius)

“It’s… alright. Uhmm, there is no need for Sirius-sama to hit my belly anymore.” (Dee)

“Aren’t you going to say something? Protect the family strongly, Otou-san.” (Noir)

“Yes!” (Dee)

Despite being married and able to have children, Dee’s eyes were still glare-like, but the expression he showed was completely like the face of a father.

We continued working after lunch, and the kitchen refurbishment was successfully completed within that day.

The heating adjustment became easier, the number of pots to be left on the stove increased and they got a big refrigerator that can hold the ingredients. Trivial things were eliminated, the space was widened on the whole and the burden of cooking in the future should have greatly decreased.

A big party was held on the evening to celebrate the completion of the kitchen and Noel and Dee’s new child.

◆ ◆ ◆

Three days later… the day of our departure arrived.

We picked up our carriage from the Galgan Company, and then we stood up, side-by-side, in front of [Elena’s Dining Room] and said goodbye.

Since the time was still too early to prepare ingredients in the morning, Dee, Noel, Noir and also Stella-san gathered to see us off.

I was wearing my usual long coat and Dee handed me a big basket when I was checking the equipment.

“Sirius-sama, here is the boxed lunches. Please have them in the middle of the trip.” (Dee)

“I’m sorry. It feel lonely when I think that I can’t eat Dee’s dishes for a while.” (Sirius)

“Have you forgotten anything? And won’t you stay a bit more?” (Noel)

“It’s a bit too late to say that now. And our preparations are complete.” (Sirius)

“Please, don’t worry because I have double-checked the preparations. Onee-chan… take care of yourself.” (Emilia)

“Thank you for your help. Noel…Onee-san, I pray for a wonderful baby to be born.” (Reese)

“Of course! I will give birth to a healthy baby, so please, come and treat the child like Noir next time.” (Noel)

“Yes, I’m looking forward to that.” (Reese)

I noticed that Reese, who became friends with Noel, shook their hands similar to Noel and Emilia. After she finished shaking hands with everyone, she led Noir, who stood a slightly distance away, to the front.

“Come, Noir-chan. If you don’t say it now, you will regret it.” (Noel)

“Yeah. Say… Reus-sama…” (Noir)

“What is it?” (Reus)

“I… will become stronger for Reus-sama. And I will make delicious meals! So… so… until I become your attendant, and grow bigger… please…” (Noir)

Maybe it was because she was shy, her voice was getting smaller and smaller. The last part was close to a hoarse voice and I could not catch it.

Since I had a habit of trying to listen to such things so that I won’t miss it, I instantly strengthened my hearing, but… how about Reus?

“I didn’t hear the last part well, but I’m looking forward to it. But, do not push yourself. I will be sad if Noir collapsed.” (Reus)

…Unfortunately, it looked like he didn’t hear it. After all, Reus is a tough opponent.

Nonetheless, Reus was probably content with Noir's favor. He was smiling at us while caressing Noir's head. Noir was depressed until then, but when Reus caressed her head, she displayed a smile.

I thought she was going to cry a lot, but with the encouragement from Reus, and the fact that she would become an older sister, seemed to have strengthened her.

It was probably depressing, but this one would also grow up well. You will become stronger after going through various experiences, so good luck at throwing everything out in your chest when you meet him again.

"Let's depart, Hokuto." (Sirius)

"Woof!" (Hokuto)

The carriage advanced with my order, and [Elena's Dining Room] became more distant.

It was a short period of time, but the days we spent with Noel and Dee in that dining room felt like we had returned home.

I do not have a home to return to, but the place where those guys were reminded me that I have a place where I can return.

When I looked back, Noel and Noir kept waving their hands, even after our figures disappeared.

◆ ◆ ◆

We left Aurum town and were heading for the main road, but as I expected, the mood was a bit gloomy after the parting.

I thought that I would be better to have some time before starting the training while moving. When I was looking at the scenery while sitting on the coachman's seat, Hokuto turned his head to me while pulling the carriage. Apparently, he seemed worried about me, so I put up a smile to reassure him.

"It's alright, Hokuto. You know me too well, don't you?" (Sirius)

"Woof…" (Hokuto)

“Good grief, you don’t have to worry so much.” (Sirius)

I was smiling bitterly at my worried faithful dog, and Emilia and Reese, who were resting inside the carriage, came and sat next to me. Although they were smiling, they were not able to hide the loneliness due to the parting.

It was a quiet moment for quite a while and not a single word was spoken… and when the town completely disappeared, they began to talk, bit by bit.

“…As expected, being apart is lonely.” (Emilia)

“That’s right. It became more lonely since Noel-san, Dee-san, and everyone else were good people.” (Reese)

“Sirius-sama… don’t you miss them?” (Emilia)

Emilia asked while looking at my face, but I didn’t mind being asked with such a matter.

“What are you saying, do you think I miss them?” (Sirius)

“Yeah, that’s right, isn’t it? And, you look fine…” (Emilia)

“Although I am looking fine on the surface, I surely miss them, you know? Besides, this is a farewell that we can meet them again. It is not an eternal farewell. Therefore, there is no need to feel lonely for long.” (Sirius)

“Oh, that’s true. It will be fine if we see them again, right?” (Emilia)

“Yeah. In the first place, Aurum is a peaceful town. Noel and Dee can take on an opponent that is at the level of an intermediate adventurer. So, there’s no point in worrying.” (Sirius)

I looked around while I was staying there, and I didn’t hear such matters like underworld organizations sneaking in, plots from dark organizations and anyone targeting Noel and others. I also infiltrated the lord that governed the town to confirm with my own eyes, but he turned out to be a decent person as was rumored.

[Elena’s Dining Room] would be safe, unless a major incident happens that involved the whole town of Aurum.

“Leaving that matter aside, now it is about us. Noel will be safe, but for us, it is regrettable if something happens. We will start the training in the afternoon, so please rearrange your feelings.” (Sirius)

“Yes. Aniki is right, Nee-chan.” (Reus)

Reus, who was maintaining his sword in the carriage, was the first one to agree. You’re switching fast… No, are you saying you are resembling me?

“Reus is amazing. I still can’t stand looking when Noir was crying…” (Reese)

“No no, I really miss Noel-nee and Dee-nii after departing from them, you know? It is because Aniki and Nee-chan are next to me. So, I won’t miss them that much.” (Reus)

“Haa… I’m happy, but be a little more sorry. Noir-chan is a child who likes you.” (Emilia)

“Eh? Noir is still a child, so she is only yearning, not liking, Onee-chan. The present feelings will disappear when she grows up, won’t they?” (Reus)

“You’re taking it lightly, Reus. Since she is a child, the degree of feelings that girls can hide is amazing. Look at me.” (Emilia)

The reply uttered by Emilia was extraordinarily persuasive. She was gradually looking at me. For the time being, I brushed her head, and that made her swung her tail.

“Haha, that’s because it is Nee-chan, right? Besides, the other person is Aniki, isn’t that normal?” (Reus)

“…He still has a long way to go.” (Sirius)

“…Yeah.” (Emilia)

“We must do something about him.” (Reese)

While sighing at Reus, who smiled heartily, the carriage, which we rode, went on the main road.

The plan from now on was to drop by the town Reese was born. And the reason is to visit the grave of Reese's mother, Laura.

My business is done, and next is for Emilia and Reus. Thus, it would be unfair if Reese doesn't visit her grave.

After that, we headed to a port town in the vicinity, and finally left for our aim, the Aldrodo Continent.

Later… let's think about after arriving at the continent.

For us, the main thing to do is to leisurely look around for a village of the silver wolf tribe.

◆ ◆ ◆

And then, when the time already became noon, we stopped the carriage and had lunch.

The lunch we were eating was, of course, given to us by Dee, but I noticed something was contained in it when Emilia prepared it.

"Sirius-sama, please look at this." (Emilia)

There were three letters written with short sentences that were handed to me.

The contents were…

[Please take care. I am praying for your safety.] (Dee)

[Please come back anytime. We'll be waiting.] (Noel)

"Isn't that a smart thing to do?" (Sirius)

"Aah, please look at this, Sirius-san. This one is from Noir-chan." (Reese)

"That's true. Come and read this, Reus. It is for you." (Emilia)

"From Noir? What is it?" (Reus)

[When I grow up, please make me your bride.] (Noel)

It was the part that couldn't be heard during the parting.

It could be because of Noel's suggestion, but it was a sentence that meant she properly understood Reus' nature, which means he won't understand unless it was clearly conveyed.

Well, how is Reus' reaction, who knew the confession from Noir?

"…Bride? Isn't she going to make meals?" (Reus)

It goes without saying that he was beaten quite seriously by the two girls.

I am confident about the education of fighting, but how did I make a mistake in the education of the opposite sex?

I was reconsidering Reus' educational objective while picking up Elena's sandwich in the boxed lunch which was the main menu of [Elena's Dining Room].

◆ ◆ ◆

— Deemas —

Sirius-sama has left.

I asked you to stay at that time… but to be honest, I wanted you to stay by my side, same way as Noel.

However, Sirius-sama is a great existence who will play an active role in the world, and he is not the kind of person who would want to seclude himself with us. Noel and I don't have strength like Emilia and Reus, and we certainly will become a burden.

In the past, I decided that that person and me were two different existences, and I thought that when he grew up, he would leave me if my assistance was no longer needed.

However, Elena said to me that I was the one who lost his way.

[Even if we don't have strength, there will surely be a time when we will be needed by Sirius-sama. Even if you feel miserable or become a burden, I want you to be fully prepared for that time. That's what it means to be an attendant.] (Elena)

So… I will wait for now.

And if that person wants it, I am determined to come running at any time.

Then, Stella-san, Nokia and Alad quickly returned to work, but surely they must have disappeared for us.

I confirmed that there was nobody in the vicinity, and then I tap Noel's and Noir's shoulders, who still kept waving their hands.

"Dear. …It is fine already, right?" (Noel)

"Otou-san…" (Noir)

"Yes…" (Dee)

And then, I hugged my wife and daughter who jumped into my chest and started crying.

I will definitely protect these lovely existences.

That is the gratitude to that person who thinks that we are family members, and because it is my desire.

◆ ◆ ◆

A while after Sirius left, there was one big shadow approaching [Elena's Dining Room].

The magic of Noel is rising up! (Program)

Dee's cooking kitchen knife cuts the darkness! (Maybe)

As for Noir's bride training, wrinkles are gathering between Dee's eyebrows. (Not much related)

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 1

“Another, please.” (Reese) *(TLN: Okawari onegaishimasu)*

“I want more, Aniki!” (Reus)

“Another, please.” (Reese) *(TLN: Okawari onegaishimasu)*

“Dee-nii, give me more.” (Reus)

“Another (getting shorter).” (Noel) *(TLN: Okawari)*

“Fuu… it was delicious. I’m full.” (Reus)

“Ano-…(and shorter)” (Noel) *(TLN: Okawa)*

“…” (Reus)

“A-…(and shorter)” (Noel) *(TLN: O)*

“Reese-ane, by the way, it is because she’s a beastkin, not a baby, right?” (Reus)

“Eh? It isn’t like that. Look, I have no ears nor tails, right?” (Reese)

“But why can you eat so much?” (Reus)

“Hmm… I’m not sure. Aah, Tou-sama eats more than me. I usually keep it down, but Nee-sama was lamenting that all the ingredients in the kitchen at the castle had disappeared when we were eating all out. Therefore, we were forbidden from eating like that.” (Reese)

“Is it because Reese’ inheritance…?” (Sirius?)

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 2

Emilia and Reese finally snapped at Reus, who read Noir's letter and his bursting natural airhead.

"Act properly! Becoming a bride is very important for a girl!" (Emilia)

"If you don't understand… I'll make you understand!" (Reese)

"Err… Nee-chan? Reese-ane? Both of you are somehow amazingly scary… gyaaaahhh!" (Reus)

One hour later…

"A BRIDE IS IMPORTANT… NOIR IS IMPORTANT… MAKE HER… A BRIDE" (Reus) *(TLN: It was all written in katakana)*

"He was splendidly brainwashed again. With this… right?" (Emilia)

"WHEN THE TIME COMES… NEE-CHAN… GOES TO BED… AND ANOTHER… REESE-ANE… ALSO GET'S ON…" (Reus)

"…" (Emilia)

"…" (Reese)

"…You guys, why are you turning away? Look at me." (Sirius)

By the way, Reus recovered by the next day.

It seemed he had no memory of the brainwashing.

◆ ◆ ◆

(Author: It is a sequel, but with a slightly different setting.)

The oven which Sirius used to bake cakes was not used every day, and the calorific value was maintained since it was not used for a long time.

Since one has to pour their mana in to use it to bake and cover the mana insufficiency, cakes can't be mass-produced.

In the case of Sirius, he makes them for disciples and individuals, and not for mass production, but since the person himself has an inexhaustible mana, the oven can be used forever.

Rodwell and Magna are helping with the mana inefficiency at Elysion's Galgan Company, and they have to do it in order to have their own share of cakes.

Intermission
The [G] Appears

— Noel —

Three months have passed since Sirius-sama's departure.

Our family is in good health and [Elena's DIning Room] is prospering.

Speaking of things that have changed, isn't that my tummy?

My tummy hasn't bulged out yet, but as Sirius-sama said, there was a baby in my tummy, and I was able to notice it a few days after Sirius-sama's departed.

Recently, I can't help always being hungry, but my husband diligently prepares the meals, and I have no complaints. He prepares various meals, so that I won't get tired of the taste. He's truly the best husband.

By the way, I thought of having Sirius-sama as the godfather for the second child, but as I expected, he declined that privilege again.

When I think about it, I have decided to name the child Dylan if the baby is a boy. And if the baby is girl, I want to use the name that I had thought before Noir was born.

My husband, Dee, seems to have it hard. He has to manage the dining room and prepare my meals every day and recently, he is busy teaching Noir how to cook.

It seems hard, but he is completely replenished when he talks to the baby while stroking my belly at night. However, I think the fatigue has been accumulating, so I try to make him rest whenever possible. I also diligently support him, you know?

And when today's business is over, I will clean up the dining room and Noir's special training will begin before we turn off the fire in the kitchen.

"Let's cut the meat and vegetables today. When working with knives, please don't be careless." (Dee)

“Got it.” (Noir)

“When you answer, say ‘yes’.” (Dee)

“Yes!” (Noir)

When I look at Noir, who is learning how to cook for Reus-kun, I remember the past Emi-chan. At that time… No, even now, Emi-chan worked hard to become a splendid attendant, since she is engrossed with Sirius-sama.

Noir is not training in the direction of having good strength, like Sirius-sama’s disciples, but I think that I want to raise her to become someone who can support someone even without having strength, similar like Elena-san. Especially for the thickheaded Reus-kun, she has to ‘push’ strongly.

At a glance, Dee-san seems to be seriously strict when teaching, but he is undeniably pleased when teaching Noir about cooking. I am his wife, so I know.

However, he seems to have complicated feelings, since the other side is Reus-kun. Sometimes, while he is drinking, he grumbles… that he doesn’t want to let his daughter go. It’s not that I don’t understand his feelings, but I think Reus-kun will make Noir-chan happy. So, please be patient, dear.

Those days have continued and on that day… that person came.

◆ ◆ ◆

I’m on my third month of pregnancy, but it’s still fine for me to move my body. And I help as a waitress whenever it’s reasonable.

Today as well, when I suggested meals while having light conversations with the regulars, the visiting bell rang and a new customer came in. Since I was in the kitchen at that time, Nokia seemed to be heading out soon but… she seemed somewhat strange.

“Wel-..come…” (Nokia)

What happened? I heard only one voice, but Nokia’s demeanor was strange. She had met various adventurers until now, so she shouldn’t be shaken from seeing an ordinary opponent, but… who the heck came?

When I came to the interior of the store, Nokia-chan had finished guiding the customer to their seat.

When I turned my eyes to look at what kind of person it was… he was a very big Ojii-san.

Although he lost one of his eyes, he was an Ojii-san with thick muscles, like a log, and sharp eyes equal to Dee-san's. Let alone the appearance, the body itself was big, and it made me feel that other adventurers that I had seen until now were similar to children. In reality, other customers that sat around were dumbfoundedly staring at the Ojii-san.

Besides, there was a greatsword as tall as himself that was put on the side chair, but he was lifting the greatsword, which seemed nothing but a lump of steel, with one hand.

Nokia-chan was likely to lose at the impressiveness of such an Ojii-san, but she, somehow, endured it and showed the menu on the table.

"Well… give me all the dishes in this store." (??) *(TLN: I put ?? for the time being, and you know why)*

…This was the first time for such an order.

I immediately came to her side, since Nokia-chan turned her eyes as soon as he said that. There was no other way, please leave it to your Onee-chan.

"Welcome. I'm sorry, but can you order again, please?" (Noel)

"I want all the dishes on this menu." (??)

"Everything… is it?" (Noel)

Nokia-chan was overwhelmed by the Ojii-san's impressiveness, but I was able to think calmly since I was somehow used to it because of Sirius-sama.

He asked for all of them, but since it was almost time to close the store, it was difficult to prepare them… and when I was thinking that, the Ojii-chan somehow noticed my thoughts, and then he placed a pouch from his waist onto the table.

“Is it about the money? If it is, I think this should be enough, right?” (??)

When he spread out the contents of the pouch in a casual manner, gold coins were spread on the table with a jingling sound.

What should I do…? As expected, I also became unrest. I slightly looked at them for the time being, there were dozens of gold coins, and after I roughly calculated the price of the dishes, I only picked up some gold coins.

“Uhmm… the dishes here are not that expensive, so these are enough.” (Noel)

“Is that so? I don’t care if you take them all. No matter whom I heard it from, everyone says that they’re delicious, so I’m looking forward to this.” (??)

While the Ojii-san said he was looking forward to them, he put away the remaining gold coins and laughed heartily. I think that I can definitely respond to his expectations since it is Dee-san’s dishes, but I want him to wait a bit.

This feeling of not understanding common sense… although I am meeting him for the first time, he seems closely similar to a child who had a similar behavior and appearance.

When I was wondering who, Nokia-chan whispered to my ear.

“Isn’t this person somewhat similar to Reus-kun?” (Nokia)

Yeah, it is Reus-kun!

The muscles were terribly big on his large body, and the presence of him holding the greatsword that was as tall as him was exactly like Reus-kun. And, his lack of common sense when treating gold coins like stones… I was certain that this person was related to Sirius-sama.

If I remember right, in the past, Sirius-sama said that he met the ‘Strongest Sword’, Lior, and I heard that Reus-kun was taught swordsmanship by that ‘Strongest Sword’.

In short, this person is…

“Excuse me, I’m sorry about this, but I would like to know if, by any chance, are you the ‘Strongest Sword’, Lior-sama?” (Noel)

“No, I am said to resemble him, but I’m not the ‘Strongest Sword’. My name is Ikkitousen, just a traveler.” (??)

The surroundings were surprised when they heard about the ‘Strongest Sword’, but they were obviously dejected when it was denied by the Ojii-san. When listening about the ‘Strongest Sword’, I think it is natural for most people wanting to meet him, since he is the strongest.

But, I thought that there was no mistake. Perhaps, he was trying to hide his name? If that’s the case, I decided to change the conversation a bit and asked with a lower voice.

“Well then, do you know Sirius-sama? He is a black-haired kid, who is very good at cooking and very strong…” (Noel)

“Where did you hear that name?” (??)

“I am Sirius-sama’s attendant, and Reus-kun’s senior.” (Noel)

“Hohou! You are related to that guy and that kid, huh… I didn’t expect to see you in such a place.” (??)

“So, after all, you are…” (Noel)

“Hmmm. You are correct, but keep it a secret.” (Lior)

There was no doubt that this person is Lior-sama. I don’t what the reason was for hiding his name, but let’s match with him for the time being.

When I tried to continue the conversation further, Nokia-chan poked my shoulder.

“Nee-chan, I know that he is your acquaintance, but we have work to do.” (Nokia)

“Oops, that’s not good. Uhmm, since it will take some time to cook it altogether, will it be alright if you have one dish at a time?” (Noel)

“I don’t mind. If you are related to that guy, I expect that the meals are tasty. I’m looking forward to them.” (Lior)

We both wanted to ask each other, but I immediately left him, since I was still working, and headed to the kitchen to give the order.

Dee-san was also surprised when I told him everything, but since he understood that he was an acquaintance of Sirius-sama, he cooked enthusiastically.

Since I thought of asking him the details later, when I brought the first meal, Elena's Sandwich, I asked him to stay even after we closed the shop.

"Got it. I also have something I want to ask." (Lior)

"Thank you very much. Well, here's the main dish of the house, Elena's Sandwich." (Noel)

"Ooo, this is it! It's nostalgic. That guy always brought it for me." (Lior)

Lior-sama ate a piece in one bite with a loosened face. Yeah… like Sirius-sama said, he is a really wonderful person.

Oops, I can't look at this situation leisurely. He will finish eating soon.

"Onee-chan, I'm bringing the curry. I will take care of the other customers, so please take care of him." (Nokia)

"As I expected of you, Nokia-chan!" (Noel)

"It's alright. It is about time that customers are starting to go home, too. Onee-chan, please don't overdo it." (Nokia)

Since the closing hour was approaching, the number of people started to decrease. Because of that, I entrusted everything to Nokia-chan, without hesitation, and I decided to concentrate on Lior-sama.

"Here is the curry. It is a bit spicy, but it is delicious." (Noel)

"What is this? It is a strange dish with white seeds in the green soup… delicious! Give me the next one!" (Lior)

"So fast!?" (Noel)

Since he already finished eating as I went back to pick up the next dish, this was more difficult than I expected. This was repeated several times even after the closing hour, even when there was no other customer.

After that, I could concentrate on Lior-sama, and when I brought a dish of substantial quantity… an unexpected sight was spread on the table.

“And then, Reus-sama swung around his sword and rescued me!” (Noir)

“Hohou, that boy is doing well, isn’t he?” (Lior)

For some reason, Noir-chan was sitting and talking face-to-face with Lior-sama.

She is shy person when seeing strangers, so it was unusual for her to approach the other person whom she has met for the first time. Does she feel the air that resembles Reus-kun?

But whenever Noir-chan couldn’t except Lior-sama’s answers, she began to get angry while hitting the desk several times.

“He is not ‘that boy’, he is Reus-sama! Call his name properly!” (Noir)

“You know, I will only call the name of the people that I approve. Sorry, but just give it up.” (Lior)

“Reus-sama, Reus-sama, RE-U-S-sama!” (Noir)

“Nuoohh… forgive me, Ojou-chan.” (Lior)

As expected of my daughter. Although he is the ‘Strongest Sword’, she ‘won’ over him. While I endured the feelings that were erupting from my chest, I went between them and offered him a meal.

“Thank you for waiting, here’s the next dish. And, I’m sorry that my child has become a hindrance.” (Noel)

“Nah, I don’t mind. Anyway, this is also delicious. The dishes in this store are the best.” (Lior)

“I know, right?! Otou-san’s dishes are the best!” (Noir)

“Yeah, the best of the best. Hahaha!” (Lior)

Somehow, these two are strangely compatible with each other.

From the story that I heard from Reus-kun, I was told that he was a dangerous Ojii-san who swings the sword, but the feeling I have right now is that he is just an ordinary Ojii-san who thinks about his grandchild.

While Nokia-chan cleaned up the store's interior while straining her ears, Dee-san came out from the kitchen and came in front of us. As I expected, he was not only preparing drinks for Lior-sama, but for us, too.

"This is the first time I've met you. My name is Deemas, I am Sirius-sama's attendant." (Dee)

"Hou, are you the one who made the dishes? It tastes really great." (Lior)

"Thank you very much. The most important thing is that you are satisfied." (Dee)

"Hmm, I am satisfied. Well, is the next dish ready yet?" (Lior)

"I will go back to cook, so please wait a bit." (Dee)

He had eaten portions for dozens of people, and yet he didn't feel like giving up. Reese-chan also eat that much. The people who gathered around Sirius-sama really eat a lot.

After that, he ate a big bowl of udon that's big for our family, and, finally, Lior-sama was satisfied…

"I'd be troubling you if I have any more than this, so I will stop. I will ask for the rest of the dishes tomorrow." (Lior)

…And he wasn't done yet.

However, he seemed pleased after eating so many delicious dishes. He laughed and drank the wine in a cup poured by Dee-san.

We finished our work and meal, and then we finally settled down and were able to talk. Our whole family held a drink, brought chairs to Lior-sama's table and shared the table with him.

"Well then, I would like to introduce us once again. My name is Noel, and this here's Noir." (Noel)

“I am Noir. Nice to meet you, Ojii-chan.” (Noir)

“Ojii-chan… uhmm. Not good, not good. I think you guys already know. I am called the ‘Strongest Sword’, Lior. As I told you earlier, but now call me Ikkitousen.” (Lior)

““Ehh!?” (Alad/Nokia)

Nokia-chan and Alad, who were standing nearby, were making noises. Aah, yes. It was reasonable for those two, since they don’t know that Sirius-sama is an acquaintance of Lior-sama.

Alad was the loudest one… when he shouted, but Lior-sama was laughing when he heard him.

“Hahaha! I am not the strongest anymore. The present me is no more than an old man who is challenging the new strongest. Until then, call me either Ikkitousen or Tousen.” (Lior)

I see, the name is different because he was defeated and reborn. Since it was confusing, I think it is fine to call him Lior-sama, but I should be careful when it comes to speaking in front of others.

And then, he was happy… he talked about his encounter with Sirius-sama until he was defeated by him, but he was somehow in a good mood when he talked about his harsh experience in the past.

Even if he is Sirius-sama’s acquaintance, will it be alright to talk about this to us, who he met for the first time? No, the story itself was exciting.

“Uhmm, is it alright to tell us about your past and your defeat?” (Noel?)

“Fortunately, it is not something to hide. Well, if I want to put it in words, I was weak and he was strong… that is all there is to that story.” (Lior)

“In short, Ojii-chan is trying to win because you lost against Sirius-sama?” (Noir)

“Hmmm! That is correct. Ojou-chan is quick to understand, and I’m saved from the explanation. And also, call me Ojii-chan some more.” (Lior)

Noir-chan took a deep breath, expanding her chest. As expected of Noir-chan… I want to praise her, but I need to teach her that she can't say that to the person she meets for the first time.

I'm glad that Lior-sama is a wonderful person, but bad adventurers might kill her without hesitation.

"Well, that was the story of me and that guy. If you don't mind, can you tell me about you and your master, too?" (Lior)

"Understood. We were with Sirius-sama since he was born, and…" (Noel)

And then, I explained our relationship with Sirius-sama. If Lior-sama talked about it to that extent, we can't lose in terms of that.

I cried when he asked, and I also cried when I told the story. Starting with the meeting after Aria-sama gave birth, instead of teaching him, we got taught by him. And then, I also talked about the farewell of Elena-san.

"Previously, I thought that such a person could not exist, but that person reminded me that it was a mistake when I met him in person." (Noel)

"I also wanted to learn a lot more…" (Dee)

"Zzz…" (Noir)

I talked to Nokia-chan and Alad several times, since it was already late, and Noir-chan had fallen asleep.

Well, what kind of reaction does Lior-sama have?

"Hmmm… the attendant called Elena was a woman with a splendid belief. That guy mentioned her many times, and I wanted to see her at least once." (Lior)

Oh, you are responding to Elena-san better than Sirius-sama. Or perhaps I should say, Elena-san was the one who wanted to meet the 'Strongest Sword'.

"I have decided! I will also go to Elena's grave." (Lior)

"Eh!? That makes us happy, but aren't you going to catch up with Sirius-sama?" (Noel)

“Ooh! Yeah, I wanted to know that! Where did he go? He said he went to school for five years, and I wanted to join him afterwards.” (Lior)

“I’m sorry, he went ahead to Adlode Continent three months ago…” (Noel)

I told him that he was going to look for the same silver wolf tribe that Emi-chan and Reus-kun are from. At the beginning, I told him everything that I knew, but Lior-sama was obviously dropping his shoulders in disappointment.

“Haa… it seems I was a bit late. I wanted to see Emilia…” (Lior)

“Emi-chan has been growing up nicely. Won’t you able to see her if you go soon?” (Noel)

Sirius-sama doesn’t really stand out, but I think it’s easy to find them since Emi-chan and Reus-kun are conspicuous. However, Lior-sama shook his head.

“I want to do that, but I’m going ahead to Elysion. Unfortunately, I have to see a shorty obstinate old man to maintain my partner.” (Lior)

“The weapon is certainly important, isn’t it?” (Dee)

Being a former adventurer, Dee-san also nodded at Lior-sama’s words.

Since the exchange of information was over, Lior-sama said that he would come again tomorrow and tried to go home, but I stopped him because I was a bit concern.

“Have you decided on where to stay?” (Noel)

“No, not for now. If it’s not good, I will sleep around in the area.” (Lior)

“If that’s the case, there is a room available in the house, so would you like to stay there? It is a bit small, but it is the room where Sirius-sama stayed while he was here.” (Noel)

“Hmmm… if you are alright with it, please.” (Lior)

That’s bold, you’re also quick to make a decision, right?

I was going to guide him to the room soon, since it was decided, but Lior-sama stopped once and handed over a pouch to us.

“This is for the rent. Do not hesitate to take it.” (Lior)

“It’s heavy!?” (Noel)

When I looked closely, wasn’t that the gold coins pouch that he spread on the table earlier? There was about thirty gold coins inside it!

“I don’t need this much! One piece is good enough.” (Noel)

“If it includes tomorrow’s dishes, that much is fine, isnt’t it?” (Lior)

“We will calculate the necessary amount tomorrow, so please keep it for now!” (Noel)

“I don’t mind if you get all of them, you know…” (Lior)

Why is he… making me worried in various ways, even though he is strong?

◆ ◆ ◆

On the next day.

Dee-san was preparing early in the morning even today too, and he prepared breakfast for us in between. When I was helping with the preparations, Noir-chan pulled my sleeve.

“Ojii-chan is an early riser, isn’t he? He was waving his sword, like Reus-sama, in the square behind the store.” (Noir)

“Ooh, it seems there is no need to wake him up. We’re going to have breakfast soon, shall we call him?” (Noel)

“Got it.” (Noir)

I took Noir along, and came to the square behind [Elena’s Dining Room].

Here’s the place where Sirius-sama, Emi-chan and the others often played Frisbee and trained, but today Lior-sama was quietly swinging.

Nevertheless, this person can still be called as the ‘Strongest Sword’. I do not quite understand swordsmanship, but I can see that it was clearly different from Reus-kun.

He seemed to be just swinging down with the sword from the upper section, but when I thought of whether the arm and the sword were blurred, the sword returned to its original position. Since the weeds at his feet were shaking, I was certain he was waving it.

He is an expert, no matter who sees him, but how did Sirius-sama win against such a person?

“Ooh! Is it you guys? Today is an ideal day for training.” (Lior)

“Good morning, Ojii-chan!” (Noir)

“Good morning. We are going to have breakfast soon, so Li-… no, I mean, how about you, Tousen-san?” (Noel)

“Of course, let’s have some. Breakfast is important.” (Lior)

And then, Lior-sama consumed the breakfast bread and side dishes to the extent of not losing to Reese-chan.

I heard he planned to leave by today, but he seems to have decided to postpone the departure to tomorrow because he wanted to eat more of Dee’s dishes.

However, since [Elena’s Dining Room] wasn’t opened for business until noon, Lior-sama was free until that time, so he headed out while carrying his sword.

“I am going to see the town while training for a bit.” (Lior)

He went for a walk in the town after saying that, and since he was buying the breakfast, he paid one gold coin. When I was checking the room, there were only two gold coins left in the pouch.

Although this was that person’s property, I feel like he’s giving us pocket money.

◆ ◆ ◆

After seeing Lior-sama off, I went shopping with Noir-chan.

There were some necessary things to buy, so we went out to the town with just two of us, but… an incident occurred here.

“Yes, I would like it immediately.” (Noel)

I was asking the Galgan Company for an additional order, since the supply of the ingredients was exhausted earlier than expected. It was because we had been already used to each other, I finished it by viva voice at the storefront. In the meantime, I asked Noir-chan to buy some skewered meat from the stall at the back.

After I finished my order, I looked to the back, since the stall was at the rear. I tried to call Noir-chan, but Noir-chan’s loud voice sounded across before that.

“Okaa-sa—n! This person is… suspicious…” (Noir)

When I thought that there was an unfamiliar man in front of Noir, and she felt sleepy after sniffing some kind of powder.

The air of that man… I feel that it was similar to being tormented by the slave hunters and slave merchants.

The man carried Noir, who was put to sleep, and since he tried to escape, I quickly concentrated on using magic. I was taught various things by Sirius-sama in preparation for such a time, and we developed it together.

When I tried to stop him by using magic, the surrounding people who noticed Noir’s voice raised angry voices.

“Oi! Release Noir-chan!” (??)

“What!? You bastard, what are you doing!?” (??)

“Doing this in broad daylight… what a crazy guy!” (??)

The people who were around got more aware because of the noise, and they began to give chase while shouting. Those men… they were regulars who came to eat in our store.

The man, who carried Noir-chan, was escaping while being surprised, but he continued to flee, the number of people who chased him multiplied.

“He went there! Surround him!” (??)

“You won’t get away if Anego’s grandchild is hurt!” (??) *(TLN: Anego = big female boss)*

“What are we going to do if we can’t eat Elena’s Sandwich anymore because of you!?” (??)

“Wha-what’s with these people!?” (Kidnapper)

By the time I noticed, there were muscular men and women mixed in who were Okaa-san’s disciples. I was carrying a baby in my stomach, so I couldn’t really run. That made me lose hope, but since everyone was giving chase, I would know where they were running to immediately.

Although I was in a difficult situation where Noir was being kidnapped… I wanted to cry because of everyone’s kindness.

But, let’s cry later. Now, I have to do my utmost to rescue Noir-chan…

When I caught up with the man, the group had become around twenty people.

However, the man was not caught, and everyone was surrounding him from a distance. That was expected because that man was holding a knife near Noir while putting his back against a wall.

“D-do not get any closer! Damn, what’s going on in this town!?” (Kidnapper)

I was happy that the people in the town were helping, but this was a very unpleasant situation.

The man was completely frightened and confused because of the bloodlust coming from the surroundings, and he was likely going to hurt Noir at any moment. First, we had to ensure her safety.

“Ooh, Noel-chan, did you come? As you can see, it’s a bad time to give up, but how are you going to save Noir-chan?” (??)

“I have an idea. Can you please divert that guy’s attention?” (Noel)

Since there was an old man from the neighborhood that I know from when I was a child, I asked him to divert that man’s attention. He made a curious face because of my sudden request, but he quickly accepted.

“Hey, you! Aren’t you ashamed to make such a child a hostage!?” (Old man)

“S-shut up! The leader will kill me if I don’t take as many as possible!” (Kidnapper)

I had a good feeling. Meanwhile, I concentrated my mana and prepared to cast some spells.

I aimed at the right arm holding the knife.

Perhaps, if I fire the spell, the man’s arm will become useless. However, if it is for my child, I will do it even if it is inhumane.

And when I tried to activate the spell…

“Before that, do you want me to kill him?” (??)

At the moment when I thought that I could hear a voice in my mind, an arm appeared from the back of the wall and grabbed the man’s right arm. The grabbed arm made a creaking noise, and the knife fell to the ground. Another arm appeared from the wall, and was strangling the man’s neck.

Everyone, including me, was watching the scene of arms appearing from the wall that restrained the man in utter amazement.

“What’s the matter? Quickly save your daughter.” (??)

“Aah… yes! Noir-chan!” (Noel)

The owner of the arms that penetrated the wall was Lior-sama.

I went out to rescue Noir-chan while the man was completely restrained, but she was sleeping without any single wounds. Aah… I'm so glad.

"Thank you very much, everyone, and Tousen-san." (Noel)

"It's good that she's safe." (Lior/Tousen)

"Yeah, it is troubling if something happened to the angel of [Elena's Dining Room]." (??)

"I'm troubled if the dining room is suspended because of such a silly thing." (??)

"Hmmm. If Ojou-chan is hurt, I will probably crush the head of this man." (Lior/Tousen)

Everyone who cooperated to help had a smile and was glad that she's safe. Being loved so much by the people of the town… we are very fortunate.

After a while, the town's guards came running, and Lior-sama handed over the restrained man.

Before that, Lior-sama tortured that man and got some information. Apparently, that man seemed to be the slave merchant who recently came to this town.

I wasn't familiar with him when I thought about him, so that was why. Moreover, he was a considerable vice dealer, since he was trying to resupply by kidnapping some slaves.

The lower position had their own quota to meet, so when he saw I looked away from Noir-chan a bit, he tried to kidnap her by secretly taking her to the back of the alley, but since Noir-chan shouted because she thought he was suspicious, he unintentionally sprayed the sleeping powder.

Although she was nearby, it was my carelessness for taking my eyes off her. I have to reflect on this.

But, it was good that I taught her many things, especially to shout if there is a suspicious man. However, I should teach her magic, so that she can protect herself next time.

After that, we returned home together with Lior-sama, and Dee, who knew the situation, hugged Noir-chan until she looked like she was in pain, and thanked Lior-sama many times.

“Hahaha! If it’s about gratitude, I will depend on your meals. Oh yeah, you should also treat those who tried to help her. You can hold onto my money then.” (Lior)

With those words, everyone who was worried and remained burst into cheers.

Although it was a bit early, we opened [Elena’s Dining Room] and treated everyone, and we gave Elena’s Sandwich to those people who were helping and gave takeaways.

Everyone said that it was all good unanimously, made a smile and returned.

It was really nice to have tried hard, and to be loved by everyone…

Later, Noir-chan opened her eyes without knowing what was happening. She was smiling as usual, and everyone was relieved.

Thus, the kidnapping incident was settled safely.

◆ ◆ ◆

However… the incident wasn’t over.

That evening, after entrusting the clean up to Nokia-chan and Alad, and sent Nokia-chan to sleep, we hid in the shade that was slightly away from the dining room.

We changed into light garments and covered our faces and hair with some cloth, so that nobody recognized us, and when we spotted Lior-sama leaving the dining room, we slowly went to him.

“What are you? With that suspicious appearance? What on earth are you?” (Lior)

“Are you going after them?” (Noel)

Lior-sama was going to the possible hiding place of the slave merchants.

He interrogated the man this morning, and the slave merchant vomited out the location of a vacant house that they made their base. But because it wasn't reported to the town's guards, I thought… it might be possible.

"Hmmm… did you notice? Well, for your Ojou-chan's safety, it's not necessary for you to place your neck in unnecessary things." (Lior)

"No, since I can't forgive his comrade, if there is something I can do…" (Dee)

"We are familiar with this town and we can fight a bit. Besides, Sirius-sama always said this: 'If your relative is hurt, never forgive your enemy…'" (Noel)

That evening… my brother, who worked as the town guard, came to the store, said that he was not able to identify the hideout yet. Well that's normal, because he was leaking the information after Lior-sama threatened him.

Although it was a bad thing, they were foolish people who tried to kidnap our cute Noir-chan. Rather than letting the town guards deal with them, I also didn't say anything, because if I didn't overwhelm the opposing side, I would regret it. In other words, we are accomplices too.

"Hahaha, you guys are really that guy's attendants. But, do you plan to do this every time?" (Lior)

"No, this time is because Lior-sama is here. Normally, I definitely wouldn't do it." (Noel)

That's because Dee-san would stop me. Even though I tried to stop myself from saying that I will go this time, I will stay here on the condition that Lior-sama allows it.

Lior-sama was smiling ferociously when I was being honest, and then he headed out.

"Well, come along. I'm going to the front and do nothing but swing my sword, so I will leave those guys to you if they try to run away." (Lior)

"Thank you very much. Well then, let's go, my dear." (Noel)

"Aah. Noel will not come out in front of me, alright?" (Dee)

While relying on someone that was different from Sirius-sama, we headed for the hideout of the slave merchants.

◆ ◆ ◆

The place where the slave merchants were hiding was an abandoned noble mansion that was slightly away from the town. The gate of the mansion was in good condition, since everyone had already left the place, but I had a proper secret plan.

“It’s my turn now. I will burn them out with the skill that was handed down directly from Sirius-sama, [Burner].” (Noel)

The mana consumption was intense, but it is a spell that creates short flame knife that can even cut steel. In regards of battle, there are Dee-san and Lior-sama, so I am thinking about how I will participate in this setting…

“There’s no need for that.” (Lior)

Lior swung his sword and the gates were cut in half.

Eh… This was made from iron, wasn’t it? But, if Reus-kun can do it, it would probably be weird if he couldn’t.

“What’s this!? What’s going on?” (??)

One man came out from the mansion because of the noise of the gates falling down, but it was too suspicious when the mansion was supposed to be an abandoned house. But in case of emergency, Lior-sama grabbed his head before that man raised his voice.

“I have a question. Are you going to meet the slave merchant?” (Lior)

“Guhh!? Wh-what… are you… saying… guahhh!” (??)

“Answer quickly. Three… Two…” (Lior)

“Aa-arrgh!? Y-yes! I am his accomplice!” (??)

Yeah… Sirius-sama’s ‘Iron Claw’ looks cute, especially when the man’s head makes creaking noises, as if it was going to be crushed at any time.

“Then, did you kidnap any children up till now?” (Lior)

“That is… gyarrghh! I did! I have kidnapped three so far!” (??)

“Is that so? You’ve worked hard.” (Lior)

As he said those words, Lior-sama threw the man towards the door of the mansion. The thrown man went straight through the door, and then several men rushed out of the mansion because of the noise.

For this town to gather so many ruffians… I have to report this matter to the higher-ups later.

And then, there was a battle going on with the people who looked like escorts, but… their was only one word to say, overwhelming.

“This old man! What are you do—…” (??)

“If you don’t want taste a painful experience…” (??)

“Nuooo!” (Lior)

““Gyaarghh!”” (??)

Every time Lior-sama swung his sword, people were flying like tree leaves. I thought the scene where people flew into the sky only happened when Reus-kun was training with Sirius-sama.

“There are also enemies here!” (Dee)

There were also enemies who aimed at us while avoiding Lior-sama, they weren’t good enough against Dee, who repeatedly had mock battles with Sirius-sama. Reading the enemy’s movements, hitting their weapons without hesitation and hitting their stomachs afterwards. The enemies would faint afterwards.

“Me too! [Flame Whip]” (Noel)

On the other hand, I was fighting this time by using the spell that has misfired many times today.

It is not comparable to Sirius-sama's, but it is more or less as strong when [String] is launched and tangled the enemies' arms. It is a spell where the [String] flares up at the moment when the opponent feels discomfort and burns them.

Besides, I can wiggle it like a whip, but since I don't have the skill, I can only use the basic movements.

Dee-san made them faint while they were burning and aggravated, and our side had no problem dealing with them, similar to Lior-sama.

In the first place, there were too few enemies. There were twenty enemies, but we only had three become our opponents. The rest were mowed down by Lior-sama, while he was laughing.

After that, he grabbed the head of the last remaining person, and raised it to guide us to where the boss was.

"Well then, where is your boss? While you're at it, tell me where the kidnapped children and slaves are." (Lior)

"There is no need for that." (??)

When we turned to the voice that came from the entrance of the mansion, there was a thin young man standing there. He seemed like a good young man with a gentle smile at first glance, but I won't be deceived. I could feel the darkness that slave hunters and slave merchants emitted behind that smile. It was too strong and even though I was already healed, it made me tremble.

Having such an opponent, Lior-sama threw away the man he held and pointed the tip of the sword at him.

"Hoho, a considerably wicked guy appeared. That means, you are the leader, right?" (Lior)

"Yes. I am the leader and I am managing the slavery business. Nice to meet you, I am…" (Slave Merchant)

"Aah, I don't want to know. From now on, I don't want to know the name of the enemies that I kill." (Lior)

“What an impatient man… But, please somewhat listen, become our accomplice…” (Slave Merchant)

Lior-sama struck the sword into the ground, cutting off the invitation from the slave merchant.

“I like opponents who will challenge me, but I dislike fools like you. Just die.” (Lior)

“Is that so? How about this?” (Slave Merchant)

The slave merchant looked at a big guy who was waiting at the rear, and then he threw a big leather pouch in front of Lior-sama. The content of the bag that made the loud noise when it fell on the ground… was gold coins. Those gold coins scattered on the ground and it was also many times more gold than what Lior-sama brought out yesterday.

“That is one hundred gold coins. Honestly, I’m also fine with giving white gold coins, but it would be nice to understand this kind of thing, right?” (Slave Merchant)

Yeah… although earning a piece is very hard, if it is compared to Lior-sama yesterday, it makes my feelings go haywire.

Money is the easiest way to solicit recruitment, but since Lior-sama isn’t concerned about money, it doesn’t seem to have much effect.

“Our job is to raise the quality of the slaves, and sell them to the customers, which are the nobles. But there are also many enemies to the business, so a strong man like you…” (Slave Merchant)

“What a troublesome guy. Well, this is my answer.” (Lior)

Lior-sama, who pulled the sword up and put it on his shoulder, was stepping on the gold spread on the floor. He wasn’t affected so far, not even a bit.

The slave merchant was surprised at the direct refusal, but he immediately kept it up and let out a sigh as if there seemed to be no other way.

“Good grief, people who are indifferent to money are rare. It can’t be helped then… Do it.” (Slave Merchant)

When the slave merchant moved to the side, the big-sized man who threw the gold coins pouch, and a small-sized man appeared from the rear. These two have a different air compared to the men who fainted nearby.

We tried to help, but Lior-sama waved his hands, saying it wasn't necessary. It seemed possible to intervene forcibly, but Dee-san and I withdrew behind since he might seriously yell if we did it.

"They are called 'Brothers of Poison', and they have been living in underworld. I will surrender if you can win against these brothers." (Slave Merchant)

"Hou? In short, they are strong, right? Your surrender is good no matter what, so shall I do this quickly?" (Lior)

As Lior-sama happily set up his sword, the men called 'Brothers of Poison' attacked him.

The first one that attacked was the big-sized man, who carried a bag on his back, and he brandished a greatsword as tall as him. Even if it was big, his sword was smaller than Lior-sama's.

"Hou! That's a considerable power!" (Lior)

Lior-sama took it from the front while happily smiling. Sirius-sama said he was a battle maniac, and I was convinced when I saw the present situation.

However, there was one more person, while he stopped the big man, the remaining small-sized man brandished a knife and he was approaching from his feet.

Lior-sama took one hand off the sword, and grabbed the face of the small man with an empty hand, but the man's hand still didn't stop, and his arm was slashed with a knife. Lior-sama threw the grabbed small-sized man aside while clicking his tongue.

And without pausing, he loaded his strength to push the big man, but knives blew out from the bag that was being carried by him, and stabbed Lior-sama's arm.

Why knives? When I thought about it, another small-sized man brought his head out of the bag while smiling.

“Did you think that there were only two brothers? Whatever it is, you are done.” (Slave Merchant)

“What are you saying with this level of injuries?” (Lior)

“No, you are done. Look.” (Slave Merchant)

“Muu!?” (Lior)

When Lior-sama pulled the knife that stuck in his arm out and threw it away, the sword he was holding fell to the ground at the same time. He immediately tried to open and close his hand for confirmation, but the hand was trembling and it was hard to do so.

“Didn’t I say that these guys are the ‘Brothers of Poison? Aah, you shouldn’t overdo it. That knife was coated with a paralyzing poison acquired from a Prairie Lizard, and soon it will be difficult for you to even stand up.” (Slave Merchant)

“Prairie Lizard?” (Lior)

“Yes, it’s not lethal, but it is a paralytic poison that makes you unable to move for several hours once inflicted. Later, there is no need for them to rush and torture you…” (Slave Merchant)

“Is that so? I thought that it was a nostalgic numbness, was it from that monster? The paralysis effect is too weak, it was a no-good monster.” (Lior)

“…Haa?” (Slave Merchant)

Lior-sama picked up the fallen sword and started swinging many times around. Since the sound was slightly different from earlier, it seemed there was some effect of paralysis.

In short… Lior-sama was resistant to that paralytic poison, and he had no problem swinging the sword. While we and the slave merchant were surprised at different places, Lior-sama seemed displeased and was glaring at the ‘Brothers of Poison’.

“Anyway, are you guys stupid? Why were you laughing with that boring knife slashing and piercing!?” (Lior)

As the big man stepped forward with a displeased face, he was too engrossed with his strength and when he swung down his sword, Lior-sama stopped it with one hand… Eh!? It was stopped with barehanded?

“Relying heavily on the weight of the sword but lacking skill… It is proof that you cannot cut my hand.” (Lior)

No, no, no! That is weird!

When I looked closely, the blade wasn’t stopped but it was caught with his fingers. I see, if that’s the case, I’m convinced… but really!?

“What are you surprised about? It is not difficult if you read the enemy’s movements like this with [Boost]. If it is those people who know me, they are done when I land the first blow.” (Lior)

Sirius-sama would certainly evade it a bit when he sees it for the first time, and he would knock it down with a counterattack. It’s to the extent that the evading skill of that person was at a different level.

Since Lior-sama’s assault didn’t really hit Sirius-sama, he told us yesterday that he continued to refine his techniques in the last few years. Wasn’t that only part of it?

Although the enemy stopped moving for a moment, they immediately resumed the assault and aimed at Lior-sama’s feet.

“And, it’s good to aim at the feet, but at the very least, you want to target from behind!” (Lior)

Lior-sama’s knee sank into the face of the small man who approached from his feet.

Finally, when the small man lurking in the bag carried by the bigger man, positioned a knife…

“Slicing is… something like this!” (Lior)

He swung the sword down with his empty hand, and the man was cut into two. Incidentally, the small man, who received a knee blow, was sliced together. They were annihilated with one swing.

The terrifying thing was, while he sliced three of them at the same time, they really were sliced in two without any resistance. For me, it was a blow with immeasurable power and skill.

Hmm, Reus-kun. No matter how I think about it, I can't imagine you defeating this man… How do you intend to win?

"Well then, next is your… hmmm, where did he go?" (Lior)

"I'm here." (Slave Merchant)

When I noticed him, the slave merchant, who stood in front of the door, stood at a place that appeared to be a balcony on the second floor. It seemed he moved away during the battle. There was unusual margin after directly witnessing Lior-sama's strength.

When I looked closely, there was an accompanied beast, a medium-sized bird-type monster, waiting next to the slave merchant. Perhaps, he planned to escape with that bird.

"I am surprised at your strength, which was beyond my expectations. Therefore, let me get run away from it." (Slave Merchant)

"What? Are you going to run away? Didn't you tell me earlier that you're going to surrender?" (Lior)

"Huhu, promises are important in the underworld, but there is no promise that is more important than life. I remembered your face, so let's meet again. Well then…" (Slave Merchant)

"Like I'm going to let you do it." (Noel)

At that moment, I stretched the [String], which I kept hidden and kept entangling it around that man's legs, and pulled together with Dee-san. The [String] tore apart after resisting for an instant, but since that was just before he jumped on the monster, rather than landing on the monster, the slave merchant fell from the veranda.

I never thought that it would do well so far, but I'm good!

While looking at the slave merchant falling unprotected, Lior-sama swung the sword up with a ferocious smile.

“Hahaha! You did it, Noel, Dee! Well, let me show you [Single Strike Ultimate Destruction Sword Style] as a gift to the afterlife.” (Lior)

“Y-you are the… ‘Strongest Sword!? Then, you are…!?” (Slave Merchant)

“Uuu… oooo!” (Lior)

The appearance of the sword that did the [Single Strike Ultimate Destruction Sword Style] was just a down swing.

But that blow…

◆ ◆ ◆

After Lior-sama killed the slave merchant, we secretly contacted the town guards to head to the mansion and went home, so that nobody saw us.

I did not know what happened from then on, but the next day, I heard the conclusion from my brother, who worked as a town guard.

In response to the secret message, the town guards arrived at the mansion, the scenery that spread in front of them made them unable to think of anything but that the mansion was struck by disaster.

The gates were cut into two, and the suspicious men were groaning while buried in the ground, leaving their heads, and he said it was hard to dig them up for interrogation.

And the conclusion was… the mansion was split into two. It seemed as if the central part of the mansion had disappeared cleanly like a borderline, and they couldn’t understand what was going on. Well, you won’t know if you don’t see it.

It was all because of Lior-sama’s sword, what would he do if he had unrelated people caught in that range?

“I knew there was none based on my perception. Besides, I was paralyzed in the end, so I miscalculated the strength.” (Lior)

…He didn't seem to reflect too much.

And then, they found several slaves in the basement of the mansion. They were protected by the town guards and dealt with accordingly. If they have family, they will be sent back. It was decided that they will be adopted in this town if they don't. It seemed to cost a lot, but there was no need to worry about money since they used the money that was kept by the slave merchant.

As a result of further investigation, that slave merchant was a considerable bad guy, who was wanted by the guild, but it appeared that it was difficult to arrest him since he was moving from place to place.

They made the mansion a base several months ago, and they purposely didn't aim at the townspeople in order to not get suspected. But, since it would leak someday, he made arrangements. He would run away while the man who kidnapped Noir-chan became a decoy.

However, the man easily confessed when he was interrogated by Lior-sama, and we obstructed him when he tried to run away… that's what happened.

Finally, according to the testimonies of the buried men, with the exception of us who hid our faces, they confirmed that it was all thanks to Lior-sama including the suppression of man on the wanted list, and he received a special reward from the town.

Lior-sama, who came back while carefully shaking the bag fitted with a large amount of gold coins, had a very troublesome look.

When he received the reward, he was invited to participate in a party hosted by the noble-sama of the town. Officially, it is for gratitude, but I think the party is probably for the nobles to make connection with the strong man.

And the main person, Lior-sama was…

"Uhmm… delicious! This Kabayaki is the best with Tare Sauce." (Lior)

Although the sky was a madder red, he was eating dishes in [Elena's Dining Room], just before the party began. Noir-chan, who was sitting on the other side, was tilting her head while pinching the same dish.

“Hey Ojii-chan, aren’t you going to attend the party?” (Noir)

“It’s troublesome. I will leave this town after I eat this.” (Lior)

As for adventurers without status, it is said that it is a substantial honor to be invited to a noble’s party.

At the present time, they didn’t know that he was Lior of the ‘Strongest Sword’, and to correspond to that… Lior-sama seemed really uninterested in joining the party.

And the evidence was, he was having a bulging leather bag next to him, so that he can leave soon. By the way, the content of the bag was dishes made by Dee for a whole day.

“Is that so? I’ll see you again.” (Noir)

“What is this? Wouldn’t it better if you sound sadder? Look, I don’t mind if you want to hug me.” (Lior)

“Uhmm… I’m sorry.” (Noir)

Lior-sama was waiting with his arms wide open, but Noir shook her head and refused it. That was… intense. If I was going to say, the meal might not go through my throat.

“I think Ojii-san will be fine no matter what happens. Besides, the only ones that I will hug are Otou-san and Reus-sama.” (Noir)

What was that? She was already trying to protect her chastity in this year. I almost shed tears over Noir’s growth.

In contrast of me, who was deeply moved, Lior-sama was holding his head with both hands and looking up to the sky.

“Nuuoooo! Is it because of that boy!?” (Lior)

“He is Reus-sama!” (Noir)

“Don’t say that! He got Noir and has Emilia as a sister! When I see him next time… I will do it.” (Lior)

Reus-kun… I hope you will survive; I'm sorry, I can't do anything but pray.

After that, he screamed for a while, and then Lior-sama resumed the meals again. After all, he was finally satisfied after having all kinds of dishes on the menu.

"…Fuh, I'm done eating. Well, I guess I should go." (Lior)

"Please wait a minute, you forgot your money." (Noel)

"Have it, then." (Lior)

"I can't. Here, please attach it to your waist properly." (Noel)

"It can't be helped…" (Lior)

Although Lior-sama had eaten luxuriously yesterday, there were still more than ten gold coins remaining. I had to make sure because it was a lot of money.

I forcibly returned the pouch, which I was told to keep, and I was finally relieved after confirming the pouch of gold coins hanging on his waist.

No, I was still worried.

"Anyway… are you really going to leave now? It's going to be dark soon, and if the party is troublesome, you can refuse it and leave tomorrow…" (Noel)

"Hahaha, the night outside is not that bad, you know? I won't feel bored because there are a lot of monsters here and there." (Lior)

Haa… Noir-chan was right. It is pointless to worry about him.

We went to the front of the dining room to see him off, and Lior-sama finally started walking after stroking Noir's head.

"Well then, stay in good health. I will come back to eat again." (Lior)

"Yes, thank you very much." (Noel)

"Next time, we will have more varieties." (Dee)

“Bye-bye, Ojii-chan.” (Noir)

He suddenly came, and he also suddenly left.

Thus, Lior-sama left without looking back.

I heard about this heroic person from Sirius-sama, he is beyond heroic when we actually met him.

But… it is not unpleasant because he is a really daring man.

He was a man who had a strange attraction.

◆ ◆ ◆

Later, when the business was over and I was tidying the tables, Noir came before me.

“Okaa-san. Here, I will give this to you.” (Noir)

“Oh, I wonder what it… Eh, this is!?” (Noel)

It was the pouch of gold coins which I strongly returned to Lior-sama, held by Noir-chan.

Why… was it here?

“This is for the town, and since Ojii-chan didn’t need it, he gave it to me. He said to give it to Okaa-san in the evening.” (Noir)

“Tousen-san! The money!” (Noel)

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 1

“Let’s keep the gold coins for Noir’s future and for Nokia’s marriage. So, look for your husband soon, Nokia-chan. If not, Noir-chan is going to marry first…” (Noel)

“Onee-chan… are you picking a fight? I don’t mind, you know? So, shall we go to the back?” (Nokia)

◆ ◆ ◆

Extra/Bonus 2

“He got Noir and has Emilia as a sister! When I see him next time… I will do it.” (Lior)

“Hiii!?” (Reus)

“Uwaah!? Why did you come into my bed?” (Sirius)

“I don’t know! I don’t really know, but please save me, Aniki!” (Reus)

(Author: The [G] was the ‘Strongest Sword’ – ***Goutsurugi****)*

PDF by: traitorAIZEN